MR. CHAIRMAN: Permission to remain absent is granted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, we take up the Short Duration Discussion on price-rise. Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu.

SHORT DURATION DISCUSSION

Serious situation arising out of rise in the prices of essential commodities during the last one year

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU (Karnataka): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the entire country is really agitated and surprised over the way in which this UPA Government is dealing with an important matter of the livelihood of the common people of the country. We have an expert economist as Prime Minister, another expert Minister and another expert as Planning Commission Deputy Chairman, who always speaks about reforms and who also comes from the so-called party which speaks of *aam admi,* concerned for the common man.

Sir, when we were in power, the NDA, the Congress had no occasion to talk about the price-rise or shortages or black market ... *(interruptions)*... or black market ... *(interruptions)*... I will come that, Sir. The only occasion that was made available to them was about the onion price. These friends carried big, big onions, some of them were fake onions, went from street to street in Delhi, and that had resulted in the defeat of the BJP in the last Assembly elections for the Delhi State. I do agree. But, today, what is happening ... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL (NCT of Delhi): What about corruption?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let him speak ... (*Interruptions*)...

श्री एम॰ वेंकैया नायडु: करप्शन के बारे में कांग्रेस बोले, भगवान बचाए देश को ... (व्यवधान)... Volcker, Bofors, Scorpene, how many ... (*interruptions*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat. You will get a chance to speak.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Morning, evening and in the night, there were scams, scams and scams. Please be claim ... *(Interruptions)*... Please be calm ... (*Interruptions*)...

श्री सभापति: बैठ जाइए ...(व्यवधान)... माननीय सदस्यगण, यह विषय बहुत महत्वपूर्ण है। इस पर चर्चा अच्छी होनी चाहिए, इसलिए किसी को डिस्टर्ब न करें, तो ज्यादा अच्छा है। ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Sir, the entire country is watching that such an important, sensitive and serious issue of price-rise which is being taken up by this Upper House, it should reflect the mood of the country. I need not take much pains to buttress my point about the price-rise. Here is a Government whose partners, my Left friends, they have said so many things, they have taken to agitational path, they courted arrests, Shri Prakash Karat, Shri A.B. Bardhan, they also courted arrest. They have give a protest call across the country. They have temporarily suspended it for some reasons, for the Mumbai blasts, *etc.* So, there is a testimony that their own friends, their allies are also agitated on this very issue. My friends from the other side say 'they are behaving as if there is no problem at all'. I would like to remind them that the Congress Party, led by its President has to call an emergency meeting of the Congress Working Committee to discuss this very issue, express concern and tell the Prime Minister on his face that a serious situation is emerging, and he should take care to see that prices of the essential commodities are controlled. Sir, we know that it is a political one-upmanship. The Congress Party is ruling the country, it is heading the Ministries, their own Ministers are there, and they are heading various Departments. And they have to convene a meeting! That means, the Government do not know what is happening till their own party tells the Government that the prices are going up, and you do something. This is an irony. It is really surprising. But, this has always been a part of the Congress Party's strategy, of political one-upmanship, of waking up a little later, trying to be smart, and them projecting before the people as if they are also champions of the cause of the common people. Sir, I would like to quota from the Economic Survey, presented by our learned Finance Minister when our Government went and his Government came, "2003-04: The UPA Government confirm that the economy was on a resilient mode in terms of growth, inflation and balance of payments and this combination offered a large scope for consolidation of growth momentum. It is also reported, "The Economic Survey 2003-04 presented today by the Finance Minister, Shri P. Chidambaram said that while the economy grew at 8.2 per cent during the last fiscal year, India has an impressive 23 year record of growth averaging 5.12 per cent per year."

That is the situation in which you came of power. And today, what is the situation? How is the common man suffering? You gave a great slogan: कांग्रेस का हाथ आम आदमी के साथ। And you increased the prices of petroleum products by 58 per cent in 2 years. It happened. It has never happened. During our Government, we also increased it because we had to dismantle the administered price mechanism. But whenever there was a decrease in the international prices, we also have decreased the prices. You have not done it. You have increased it and the price rise went up to 58 per cent, which had a cascading effect on the overall price situation in the country, making the life of the common man miserable. And you did not even bother to tell the Prime Minister to save the common man from his suffering. And you friends have advised you. The Left have met you morning, evening; there were so many meetings. Nothing has happened. They have to give you advice; you never bothered for their advice.

Sir, hence the situation is that the entire country was speaking with one voice-the political parties, the ruling party and opposition parties. Newspapers wrote editorials one after another; there are stories also in front page about the price rise, about shortages, but the Government was unmoved to the last moment. That is why I feel that there is every need to tell this ruling party on its face that you have failed in your responsibility.

We went to the President of India yesterday with a memorandum to the hon. President to remind his Government that it has failed in its responsibility of an important task of protecting the interest of the common man. What else is more important? There are other issues concerning the country and I am not entering into the various other sufferings of the common people now.

Sir, when we were there, everything was in surplus. When these people came, they have the great capacity and they converted surplus into shortages. During NDA regime, there were no lines in queues, no waiting list, no shortage, no black-marketing, everything was in surplus. I can challenge. Today, this Government has come and even for MPs, for LPG gas cylinders, there is a waiting list! Ask anybody. There is surplus sugar in the country today but the prices are going up. Cement is in surplus, but the price is going up. Coal production has increased but the price is going up. Steel production has increased. Petroleum is an international phenomenon, I do agree, to some extent all of us have to share that concern and take corrective measures. But, at the same time, how do you

explain about these products? Sugar is sold in the market at 20 rupees a kilo. Cement is sold at 170-175 rupees a bag. *(Interruptions)* My colleagues are saying more than 200 rupees. I do not want to raise the price in the House, but, at the same time, the cement prices are increasing. Then steel, per tonne, there was an increase of more than Rs. 1,500. And all these people are getting good money. I have no problem. But what about the common man?

Bank interest rates are going up. I am told that one more dose is in the offing. I hope the Finance Minister would take the House into confidence to say that the interest rates are going to go up further. We, the BJP, can take credit in saying that the housing loan was reduced between 6.5 and 7.5 per cent. And today, the housing loan rates are going up.

Even for the farmers, Sir, during our Government, we brought down the interest rate from 14 per cent to 9 per cent. Our Finance Minister assured the country that he would bring it down to 7 per cent. But today, in actual practice, you can ask anybody, you can ask the Andhra Pradesh Government about the cooperative loans given to the people. This Government says that you cannot give 2 per cent concession to the cooperative loans. But cooperative sector accounts to 30 per cent of lending. Even toady, we know that most of the money, in spite of figures provided by the hon. Finance Minister, is coming from the unorganized sector. That is the case and this is the way they deal with this and give figures. Our Finance Minister is an expert, at the same time, I thought he will be sensitive enough to respond to the story and appeared in the newspapers. Sir, there is a frontline story in the *Economic Times*, if you permit, I quote: "The cost of living, the Wholesale Price Index deflating inflation, the real price is something and that the figures that are provided by the Government are something else. They have give it in detail, I do not want to take the time of the House. There are one or two items, which I will just give, Sir, Foodgrains-the increase, as was shown, the inflation was 9.5 per cent. But in real terms the increase was 26.6 per cent. And this Government of India has developed a knack of putting up such figures for the index to see that inflation rates are not really understood by people. This sort of cheap gimmicks will not help, Mr. Finance Minister. You go to the market today, find out from the retail market, find out from the wholesale market whether the prices are going up or they have come down, and then you yourself will understand. Dal, oil, wheat, rice, even ordinary item chappal for common

man, every price is going up. There is saying in Telugu, Sir, in the market all prices of kandipapu, minapappu, sanagapappu, nippu, aappu, sappu, pappu, chippu, and all have gone up. Everything is going up. The intention of the government may be that everybody has to go up once, so first the price are going up and then they want to send the people also, I do not know. They are fudging the figures of even the Wholesale Price Index and inflation. That is my charge against this Government. ...*(Interruptions)*... Pappu means dal, and chappu means chappal, Sir, it is not my charge against this Government. I would like him not to take it in a negative meaning. See the statements of Shri Bardhanji and Shri Prakash Karat, "Whatever steps the Government has taken so far is too little and too late. The Government has messed up the whole issue." This is what the comrades are saying, both the CPI and CPI(M). Still you have not moved, you are not worried about what is happening. Sir, the Congress Chief Ministers they went one step forward and they have criticized that our Government was responsible for the present situation because of the Essential Commodities Control Order. Sir, that was the consensus at that time. The hon. Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vijpayee had convened a meeting of the all the Chief Ministers. The Chief Ministers of Congress and Chief Ministers of Communist parties were also there is that meeting and there it was agreed upon because at that time, as I told you, it was only surplus, surplus and surplus. There was no shortage of foodgrains and the farmers were suffering a lot because they were not getting the price as they were expecting, though it was better as compared to the present situation. At that time, this decision was taken. And now, this Government, the Chief Ministers meeting under the leadership of the Congress President attended by the Prime Minister, they go to that extent and carry out this negative propaganda across the country. Doordarshan flashes the story that the prices are rising because of the earlier NDA Government's order. If we had passed such an order and if you have a political will, why do not you reverse it? You never did it. On the other hand, Sir, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, hon. Defence Minister, went out and told the media after the meeting that the CMs spoke like this, the Government's order of February 15, 2002 rescinding all Control Order of the Essential Commodities Act was making it difficult for them to take action against hoarders. This was the charge made by the Chief Ministers. Sir, the hon. Defence Minister should know his party's and his own Prime Minister's views, I would like to quote the Prime Minister what he said at the India Economic Summit on November, 20th, 2005.

Mr. Finance Minister, please mark these words, of your own leader, the Prime Minister, "An integrated food law and forward marketing in commodities along with the amendments to the Essential Commodities Act are major steps towards having a single integrated market for agriculture in India. I see immense opportunities for private enterprise in the transformation of agriculture." This is what your Prime Minister says and your Chief Ministers find fault with my Government. If my Government had done something wrong, instead of correcting it, your Prime Minister is advocating the same. He went one step forward about forward marketing of commodities also. Sir, this NDA bashing will not serve the purpose. After all the people are suffering, they are seeing what is happening. Moreover, the Standing Committee of Parliament, I do not want to quote, but the Bill was referred to them to remove the unnecessary and irrelevant restrictions on the movement of essential commodities particularly in the agricultural sector. To top it, Sir, recently, the Ministry of Consumer Affairs announced that the Government proposed another amendment making the ECA applicable only in warlike situation. The provisions of ECA will be applied only in warlike situations. The Ministry further stated that the rise in prices of essential commodities was led by macro-economic factors and not because of future trading in these commodities. This is what they say. Now, they are saying that if there is a hoarding then who prevented you from de-hoarding? Another thing starts which made the Communist party friends to pass a resolution in the National Council at Hyderabad that they will take the lead and open the godowns. Your Government is there, you are supporting the Government and you have to taken law into your own hands. That speaks of the helplessness of the coalition. Sir, coming to the issue of consumer, neither the consumer is benefited nor the producer is benefited. आज किसान देशभर में रो रहे हैं और हर दिन मर रहे हैं। प्रधानमंत्री जी विदर्भ गए, विदर्भ में उन्होंने लोगों से मिलकर एक पैकेज अनॉउंस किया। मेरे ख्याल से वह पैकेज नेशनल पैकेज होना चाहिए था, मगर उन्होंने नेशनल पैकेज अनॉउंस कर दिया। नेशनल पैकेज की जगह नोशनल पैकेज अनॉउंस कर दिया। प्रधानमंत्री जी के वहां से वापिस आने के बाद, अभी तक हमको जो जानकारी अखबारों के द्वारा मिली है, यहां का कोई विदर्भ का सदस्य अगर उसको कॉरॉबोरेट करे तो मुझे कोई आपत्ति नहीं है, 60 लोग मर गए हैं। तो किसानों की यह स्थिति है। मैं इसमें ज्यादा नहीं जाना चाहता, क्योंकि चर्चा में और लोग भी बोलने वाले हैं। Sir, with regard to the management of public foodgrains, Sir, procurement of wheat during 2005-06, marked a seasonal drop by a steep 36 per cent to 9.5 million tonnes. The procurement was only 14.8 million tonnes. The

buffer stock norm for 1st July 2006 was 17.1 million tonnes. By January stocks were only 4.9 million tonnes. This was the lowest ever in the last ten years. It is worth noting that the buffer stock was more than 50 million tonnes when the NDA relinquished office. The entire thing has evaporated. Now, it is not my charge alone. You see the Economic Survey. Even the Economic Survey also says that the foodgrain shortage was there and there was a shortfall of minus 11 per cent procurement, if you talk in terms of percentage. You don't procure. Then you accuse others without doing your responsibility. With respect to the Food Corporation of India, I think this was the great idea of our Finance Minister who is again very intelligent. I have very great respect for him Sir, because he is so intelligent that he can make and unmake and convince everybody that everything is fine. Sir, the secret according to me, if I understood properly--he can correct me also; he is senior to me I am ready to be corrected--the secret for non-procurement is nothing else but the financial management of the *maya* of the Finance Minister. He wanted to reduce the burden on the Government. He wanted to reduce the Bill. He wanted to reduce the subsidies. At what cost? Today, you have to import and import at a higher price than that is offered to Indian farmers and while importing also this Government has gone to the extent of even relaxing the norms. I read in the newspapers. If I am again wrong you can correct me also. After the producers reached Chennai Port from Australia, they were found they were not up to the level of the standard fixed by Food Corporation of India by the Government earlier. I don't use the word 'human consumption' but they have given certain standards for these qualities and they have relaxed those conditions. Our own Member, Shrimati Brindaji also wrote and article. I have gone through that also. She mentioned about the same that Government so far has not contradicted it. In order to help the farmers in foreign countries, the traders, you are ready to relax the norms. But when the farmers are crying, whenever there is a cyclone or flood or any other natural calamity you are not ready to relax the norms for Indian farmers. This is the charge you are facing now. It is because of your folly of not procuring enough foodgrains and not maintaining the needed buffer stocks. After all, Sir, there is an Agricultural Ministry, a Consumer Affairs Ministry, and a Finance Ministry. We have so many departments working. They should have foreseen what is going to happen. If the production level is going to go down, you must have had some buffer to meet that contingency. You have failed in that. It is an utter failure on the part of the Government not to foresee and then, at the last

moment, now, you are going for import left and right. You are importing pulses, oilseeds, wheat and everything is being imported! I will tell you, Mr. Finance Minister, the day will come in this very Hosue we will discuss, in the next season, its adverse affects on the fate of the ordinary farmers of the country. If you indiscriminately allow imports at zero percent duty, it will ruin the lives of the farmers. This is what international traders are waiting for. They want that the distress situation to come and they want to dump their stocks in India and make good profits. It is an open regime. I do admit. At the same time, there is a responsibility on the State. It is the responsibility of the Government to come to the rescue of the common man whenever there is a distress -- either way, for the consumer or producer. You have failed in understanding that situation and you also failed in taking preventive measures or appropriate measures to face such a situation. Now, you are giving such an open permission. I saw the other day. A noted agriculture scientist, Dr. M.S. Swaminathan, has cautioned the Government that this indiscriminate import of oilseeds, pulses and wheat is going to adversely affect the interest of the farmers in the country.

SHRI AMAR SINGH (Uttar Pradesh): Sugar.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Sugar also. But, I am not talking too much about sugar, because I am a diabetic patient. And, many of my friends are also suffering on account of that.

But, the point is about wheat. The point is about oilseeds. The point is about other commodities. Sir, you have to be a little considerate to the speakers, because the issue is a very serious one. Even the price that was given to imported wheat is between Rs. 850 and Rs. 950. And; here, the farmers are getting Rs. 650! You have not increased the Minimum Support Price adequately. You have the figures. Your own Economic Survey says. Whenever we did it, we did it in a big way. You yourselves have said that जैसा कि सब कहते हैं कि नाम के लिए तो कुछ न कुछ करना ही चाहिए, इसलिए आपने ऐसा किया और वह भी 1.6 परसैंट इन्क्रीज़। क्या यह कोई बड़ा विषय है? सरकार इसके बारे में क्यों नहीं सोच रही है, ऐसी परिस्थिति पैदा हो गई है?

Sir, with regard to inflation I would say that when the NDA regime was in power the inflation was 3.4 per cent in the first year, then 3.8 per cent, 4.3 per cent, 3.9 per cent. The inflation in the UPA regime is, 4.1 per cent, 5.16 per cent. See the regime, Sir. Hon. Prime Minister, when he was the Finance Minister, when the so-called reforms started, the average inflation was 10.6 per cent. My friends were trying to accuse the BJP and the

NDA. That is on record, Sir. There was an unacceptable record of inflation during the earlier regimes. Then, in between, another regime has come where our friend. Mr. Chidambaram was the Finance Minister. Some moderation came at the time of United Front or the divided front. I don't know. It was 5.4 per cent. Then, when our regime came, it came down from 4.7 per cent to 3.7 per cent. That is how we managed the economy. You have to admit it in your Economic Survey. And, now, you are trying to find excuses, instead of accepting your failures and trying to correct it because inflation was under control during our regime.

Sir, prices of all vegetables have gone up. They are saying seasonal. सीज़नल तो है, to some extent. But, at the same time, there cannot be such a variation. In Madanapalli, near Bangalore, Chittoor, tomato is sold at Re. 1 per kg. But, in Delhi, it goes up to Rs. 25 per kg.! And even onion at Nasik is sold between Rs. 2 to Rs. 3 per kg. And, here, in the markets, they are selling at Rs. 20 per kg. And the Government could not do anything. They have done some drama here in Delhi. Our Congress friends have done some drama. Here is what the caption says, 'Subsidized tomato sale begins.' This is the headline of a newspaper, 'four outlets for a population of fifty million make a mockery of the exercise.' This is not my comment. This is "The Hindu" comment, not the Hindu Venkaiah Naidu. It is "The Hindu" newspaper comment. But, still, they feel that their responsibility is over. They are happy. Their happiness has been indicated today in Delhi election. Already one election has taken place today. And the people have shown their anger on that issue also. Aggarwalji is leaving. I don't know why. Sir, this is a small thing of winning a local election. I am not making it a big issue. I am just giving an indication that the people of the capital are not happy the way in which your Government have handled the issue of price rise. There was a situation that Arhar, Rajma, Moong, Urad, Chana and Malka were all selling around Rs. 50 per kg. How do you expect the common man to purchase these at Rs. 50 per kg. and still survive? Even the budget of the common man has undergone a sea change. There was an increase of more than 25 per cent. And, the Congress Party and its supporters are unmoved. With all this, I want to say that it is all because of financial mismanagement, lack of foresight, lack of proper planning, lack of proper coordination among the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Finance, and the Government itself. They are more pre-occupied with other issues. They are not concerned about the common man. (*Interruption*).

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY (Pondicherry): You are more concerned about the common man.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Yes, common people like Narayanasamyji. Sir, when there was a severe drought situation in the country during our Government's tenure in 2002-03, the foodgrain production declined from 220 million tonnes to 170 million tonnes. There was a decline of 50 million tonnes because of the severe drought situation. Fourteen States had faced droughts. Our Government managed the situation in such a way that there was no complaint of any shortage anywhere during that period because we had maintained good buffer stocks. You did not have that foresight. You did not have that intelligence. You wanted to save money and let the common people suffer. As a result, the situations like the present one arises. Sir, there is a situation where the policy of the Government is such that what the left hand is doing,the right hand dones not know, what the Ministry of agriculture is proposing, the Ministry of Commerce does not know. The Ministry of Agriculture, at one stage, was saying, according to media reports, "The liberalised import regime is good for us. The Developed Countries have subsidies so they can produce more and we can import at; this cost." That will never happen because they are more intelligent. What we need, what India needs is a 'home-grown food security', not an 'imported food security'. These things are doing small, small *chitka* things, which are not uncommon. In Andhra Pradesh also, during the municipal elections, our congress-friends had opened shops, but once the polling was over, the shops had also been closed. This is an easy way of meeting such a gigantic situation in a country of hundred crore people. You have a strategy that is lacking, and, then, you try score political points over other with a view to divert the attention of the people from the burning issue of the price rice. What I am trying to say is that we have so much information on the issue which exposes which exposes the duplicity of the Government because, as I told you, in each and every, sector there was unacceptable information increase, making the life of the common life – the rickshawpuller, the taxi driver the auto driver, wage warners in the villages, agricultural laboures, slum dwellers in the urban areas -- misearable. Even the middle class is also feeling the pinch of the increase. But the Government is behaving as if the solution lies in passing resolutions and criticising the NDA.For what you are doing in india, you are criticising the NDA. And, then, your Prime Minister speaks the same language, You don't bother about the contradiction, Still you want to carry on. How long will you do

like this? My point is even our Leftist frinends were also making big noises, but what is more important is 'voice' than 'noise'. I have seen the voice of Dr. Kalaignar Karunanidhi. Dr. Kalaignar Karunanidhi raised his voice an the Prime Minister, the Finance Minister and everybody had to withdraw their proposal. Do something like that my friends, who are sitting on the Left benches. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN (Kerala): We don't need... from you. (*Interruptions*) When you were in power, we know what was your approach. (*Interruptions*) We know what was your approach in Food Safety Programme. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU : Sir, wise men learn from other's experiences and fools learn from their own experiences. I can't help if anybody says. (*Interruptions*) We don't want any advice. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: I am not giving any advice to you. From your own experience you are saying that. That's why you are sitting there.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: No. problem. *(Interruptions)* Sir, my freind Yechury is not here now. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: He has started advising everybody. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: No advice at all. Don't heed anybody's advice. You follow what your Finance Minister has said in the other House while presenting the Budget. He quoted from Thirukkural. He said, "Hear whatever anybody says and do whatever you want to do." That is what he is doing. And if the Allies have no problem with that, I have no problem with them. My freind, Shri Sitaram Yechury, said, "We will not bark, if necessary, we will bite." When did you bite, my friend? I am only seeing bites on television. .... *(Interruptions)*... In the morning, it is Yechury bites, afternoon, Raja bites, late in the evening, Bardhanji's bites and before bed, Prakash Karat's bites, but still nothing is happening. The Finance Minister is unmoved. I don't want them to physically bite. I am only saying, "Please try to put some sense of responsibility to the ruling Party if you have strength." You have strength. Without your support, this Government cannot survive even for a minute. Dr. Kalaignar Karunanidhi has shown the way. If

you are also concerned about the common man of the country, working class, ordinary people, then, do something, please. ...(*Interruptions*).

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Your divide and rule policy will not work here. ...(*Interruptions*).

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Shri Narayanasamyji always believes in unity. ...(*Interruptions*)... You neither have unity nor clarity. एकता नहीं है, स्पष्टता भी नही है आपके पास, आपकी *सरकार में।* ...(*Interruptions*)... Sir, I only suggest -- if they don't want to hear my suggestion, I have no problem, -- I am only appealing to the people of the country, "See , here is a Government which has become insensitive and here are Allies who are only making noises without making their voices felt by the Government." How long this situation should continue? How long the common man should suffer like this? How long the farmers in India in various regions of Uttar Karnataka or in Wynad in Kerala, or Telangana in Andhra Pradesh, or Vidarbha in Maharashtra should go on committing suicides like this? सर, लोग कह रहे हैं कि लोग रो रहे हैं और सरकार सो रही है। People are weeping and this Government is sleeping! This is the situation. That is why we were compelled to go to the President of India and our demand is simple; we do not want you to get down. We always say, 'either govern or get out.' दम है तो, कैपेसिटी है तो, केलिबर है तो कुछ करके दिखाओं आम आदमी की कुछ मदद करो। पॉलिटिकल ह्रासमेंट करने से, पॉलिटिकल rivals का मकान खाली कराने से समस्या का समाधान नहीं होगा। आपने देखा कि एक राज्य सभा सदस्या की सदस्यता समाप्त करवाई, वह दोबारा से जीतकर यहां आई। इससे लोगों की समस्याओं का समाधान नहीं होता है। उनकी समस्या उनकी भूख है, उनके पेट में जो दर्द है, किसानों का जो दर्द है, उसके लिए असली समाधान चाहिए। कुछ policy changes, foresight is required. Simply, you are saying rains are coming. Someone told me that, Sir, now the Ruling Party is ready to have a discussion on prices because the prices are coming down. So, if the nature solves all the problems, then, what for are you there in the Government? If the nature is going to solve all the problems, then, what for is the Government there? It is the duty of the Government when there is a crisis or a problem, then, the Government steps in. अदरवाइज़ होता रहता है यह सब, everything happens also normally. The government is there; and that too you are a Government which has sworn on the word of कांग्रेस का हाथ, आम आदमी के साथ। कांग्रेस ने आम आदमी के साथ* भी एक्युरेट वर्ड नहीं है*, You have committed a *one the people by not bringing out the real picture to the people, by not taking effective,

*Expunged as order by the Chair.

timely steps and also by accusing other parties for your failures, at the same time, opposing the reforms on the one side, and proposing reforms on the other side. This is what you are doing. How long you will do this? I agree with you, you are a coalition Government.

श्री सभापति: आपके बोलने का टाइम खत्म हो रहा है।

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Okay. We also ran a coalition Government. You have to take various important decisions. You have to take the coalition partners into confidence. You have to make certain compromises. I am not saying, "No, no; you shoud not make any compromises at all." The coalition *dharma* casts a responsibility upon you. You have to make certain concessions and certain compromises also. But, at the same time, what I am saying is, don't compromise on the interests of the people or the sufferings of the people. They should be the first and foremost to you. They should be top on your agenda. As for the present, your behaviour, 2 years of your conduct is concerned, I don't think any such thing is happening. Otherwise, the highest forum of the Congress Party, instead of accepting the responsibility politely, humbly, goes to the extent of blaming the earlier Government while supporting the same order by your Prime Minister. Is this not diplomacy? Is this not double standards, Mr. Finance Minister? If you are capable, then, convince all of us. I have quoted the speech of the Prime Minister. If I am wrong, I can be corrected. I have the extract of the Prime Minister's speech which was reported widely in the newspapers. As far as figures also are concerned, there was a reaction from the BJP on the story that appeared in the "Economic Times." The Government did not even bother to give a clarification or a reaction. Sir, if you see the irony, today, the Bombay Sensex is zooming day by day; it is fine; at the same time, the prices are also zooming for the ordinary people. We are happy; okay, the sensex is going up; but what about the fate of the common people? Are you concerned about that? Or, are you simply happy about the Bombay Stock Market and what is happening there, leaving the common people of the country, particularly, who are in the backward areas to their fate. This should not be allowed to happen. I only request the Government of India to have some introspection. Try to understand. Take the criticism positively and seriously. Try to make amends if you can. If you have the political will, govern; otherwise, get out. Thank you.

[MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair]

SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK (Goa): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, let me, at the outset, say that price rise, whether we be in power or otherwise, has always been the concern of our Party. So much so that we never made any distinction as far as our position is concerned. And if need be, our own party fora have met time and again to guide the Government, and even advised the Government if something goes wrong. That has been our policy. We have never felt shy of these things whereas your Government, your Party has always been hiding things, whatever your Government was doing. We never dared to tell your Government that here you are going wrong; here, you are going right. This is the distinction between the Congress Party and the BJP.

Secondly, one of the factors for increasing prices, apart from market forces and all other things, is the BJP who rescinded the order under the Essential Commodities Act on 15th February, 2002. The vital instrument which was available with the State Governments was rescinded by the BJP Government, as a result, the traders - and I would say the BJP traders— whom you have been favouring all the time...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री सुरेश भारद्वाज (हिमाचल प्रदेश): दो साल से तो आप यहां हैं। आप क्या कर रहे हैं? ... (व्यवधान)...

SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: ...and now you are saying, "oh, they are making some money, let them make." You have said in your speeches now ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री रूद्रनारायण पाणि (उड़ीसा): बीजेपी ट्रेडर्स क्या है? ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री उपसभापति: आप बैठिए प्लीज़। If he yield, I will ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA (Jharkhand): Mr. Venkaiah Naidu has touched upon this point. Through you, Sir, I am appealing to the Finance Minister, let him stand up here and now and say that they are going to rescind the order of 18th February, 2002. If he has the courage and decency, let them ...*(Interruptions)*... say they are rescinding the order now...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री उपसभापति: सिन्हा जी, आप बैठिए। He has not yielded...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: The Prime Minister is supporing it. What is the point of this?

श्री उपसभापति: आप बैठिए।

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: You don't care the Prime Minister and not your leader. That is the problem...

SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: The Essential Commodities Act was a vital Act, is a vital Act...*(Interruptions)*... Now, out of the way, you want to protect your traders for the purpose of favouring them and allowing them to hoard...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Naik, please address the Chair...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Definitely, Sir...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री रुद्रनारायण पाणि: हम शांति से सुन रहे थे ...(व्यवधान)... यह बीजेपी ट्रेडर्स नहीं चलेगा ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री उपसभापति: आप बैठिए, पाणि जी। आप बैठिए। उनको बोलने दो। Nothing will go on record.

श्री एस॰ एस॰ अहलुवालिया (झारखंड): सर...(व्यवधान)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He has not yielded.

श्री एस॰ एस॰ अहलुवालिया: कभी भी कम्युनिटी पर, जैसे किसी को बनिया नहीं कहना चाहिए, वैसे ही किसी को बीजेपी ट्रेडर्स कहना और कांग्रेस ट्रेडर्स-यह क्या बात है? Is it in good taste?...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री उपसभापति: आप बैठिए। Mr. Naik, Please...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री एस॰ एस॰ अहलुवालिया: कल माफिया पर डिसकशन होगा तो हम कहें कांग्रेस माफिया? क्या बात कर रहे हैं? This is not fair.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Naik, please avoid such things....*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: I am avoiding, Sir, If BJP is unparliamentary, then, I will avoid BJP.

श्री रामदास अग्रवाल (राजस्थान): उपसभापति महोदय, इस डिबेट को अच्छी तरह से चलना चाहिए, किसी को किसी पर अनावश्यक आरोप लगाने की आवश्यकता नहीं है।

SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL (Gujarat): Do you want him to avoid the BJP or the trader?

श्री उपसभापति: वे समझ गए, आप बैठिए।

SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Sir, hon. leader...

AN HON. MEMBER: Say that in the speech.

SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Yes; yes, I am pointing out, because he said it. He said that the prices of steel, cement have been increasing. It is in our knowledge and you can find out that, before Elections,* ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Sir, what is this? ...*(Interruptions)*... He has to substantiate it. ...*(Interrruptions)*... There cannot be humour ...*(Interrruptions)*... He has to substantiate it. ...*(Interrruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Naik, if you are making allegations, you have to ...*(Interrruptions)*...

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: He has to substantiate it. ...*(Interruptions)*...

Sir, you have to expunge it, and he must apologise for it. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Naik, if you are making any allegation, please substantiate it. ...(*Interruptions*)... आप बैठिए... आप बैठिए। ...(व्यवधान)... आप बैठिए ...(व्यवधान)... why are you standing? क्या बात है? ...(व्यवधान)... आप बैठिए। ...(व्यवधान)... प्लीज... आप बैठिए। ...(व्यवधान)... I will look into it ...(*Interruptions*)... आप बैठिए तो सही। ...(व्यवधान)... आप क्या बोलना चाहते हैं? ...(व्यवधान)... Mr. Narayanasamy, why are you standing? ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Sir, it cannot be like this. He has to apologise for it or substantiate it. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री उपसभापति: आप बैठिए तो सही। ...(व्यवधान)... आप क्या बोलना चाहते हैं? ...(व्यवधान)... एक सदस्य बोले, बाकी अपनी सीटों पर जाएं। ...(व्यवधान)...

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Either the substantiates it or apologises for it. This cannot be allowed to go on record. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Sir, we can havean enquiry. They are not ready for enquiry on Volcker or Bofors etc. But we are ready for enquiry.

*Expunged as order by the Chair.

So, come on. We are ready to take the responsibility. ...*(Interruptions)*... We are ready for an enquiry. ...*(Interruptions)*... We are ready for an enquiry. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I am trying to understand what he has said. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: He has to substantiate it. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I am calling for the records. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD (Bihar): He should first apologise. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I am calling for the records. Let me go through it. Let me see it. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Sir, the Rules clearly say that you cannot make an unsubstantiated allegation in the House. He has referred to my speech and made an allegation on our party. ...*(Interruptions)*... We are ready to accept the challenge. We will have an enquiry where Volcker, Bofors, Scorpene, cement, steel and other things can be looked into. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री उपसभापति: आप बैठिए तो सही। ...(व्यवधान)... एक सदस्य बोले, बाकी अपनी सीटों पर जाएं। ...(व्यवधान)...

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: He will have to withdraw it.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY (Karnataka): Sir, I am on a point of order. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: What is you point of order? ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Sir, what is his point of order? He cannot give me a proof. ...*(Interruptions)*... He has to either withdraw it or, otherwise accept an enquiry.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Sir, I am on a point of order, ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Unsubstantiated allegation cannot be referred to. ...*(Interruotions)*...

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Rule 238A says, 'No allegation of a defamatory or incriminatory nature shall be made by a member against any other member or a member of the House unless the member making the allegation has given previous intimation to the Chairman..." ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Sir, he has made unsubstantiated allegations...*(Interruptions)*... He has to either apologise or substantiate...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Sir, he has not made any allegation against any Member. It is against the party...*(Interruptions)*... He has not made any allegation ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please, sit down, Mr. Poojary ...*(Interruptions)*... I have already said it. You have quoted Rule 238A. I have called for the records. I shall reach a decision after going through the records. Please, if you have to make any allegation...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Sir, I wish to quote from your rulling. You may read page 123 of The Rajya Sabha Rulings and Observations from the Chair...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Darda, please...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: It reads, 'Debates: Allegations: Something said in the House, if it is of a nature of an allegation, has to be substantiated.'

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You are reading from 156 or 157?

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Sir, it is 156. Let him substantiate it. Only then...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: He cannot be allowed to make unsubstantiated allegations against the Party...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have already told him...*(Interruptions)*... I have told the hon. Member that if you are alleging anyting, you have to substantiate it...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: He must withdraw...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have already told him...*(Interruptions)*... I will see what allegation he has made and will look into it...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: He has no evidence to support whatever he has said...*(Interruptions)*... Therefore, he must apologise for what he has said...*(Interruptions)*... He must apologise...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: He has not made any observation against a Member ...*(Interruptions)*... He has made a general observation...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I am looking into it...*(Interruptions)*... I have called for the records...*(Interruptions)*... मैं देख रहा हूं। ...*(Interruptions)*...

I would look into what he has said...*(Interruptions)*... if he has made an allegation, which he cannot substantiate, I shall expunge it ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: They do not want to continue with the discussion...*(Interruptions)*...It is not against any individual ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री उपसभापति: आप बैठिए। ...(व्यवधान)... आप क्या बोलना चाहते हैं? ...*(Interruptions)*... आप जाइए, मैं रिकार्ड देखूंगा।...(व्यवधान)... I am going to look into the records. अभी मंगवाया है।I have called for the records...*(Interruptions)*... If he has made any such allegation, we will look into it...*(Interruptions)*... I am going through the records. I will make a decision as to whether he has made any allegation, which requires to be substantiated. Please, sit down...*(Interruptions)*... अहलुवालिया जी, मैं देखूंगा। ...(व्यवधान)... मैं देखूंगा। ...(व्यवधान)...मैंने कहा है ... (व्यवधान)... I told him that he has to substantiate...*(Interruptions)*... आप जाइए पाणि जी। आप लोग अपनी सीटों पर जाइए। ...(व्यवधान)... Mr. Naik ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Similar allegations were made by him...*(Interruptions)*... They also need to be expunged...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SURESH BHARDWAJ: He must either substantiate or apologise...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: He has made several allegations against the Government. Similar allegations were made in the speech of Mr. Naidu...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Why did you not raise that...*(Interruptions)*... Why did you not raise that?...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Similar allegations were made by Mr. Naidu. What are you saying? You cannot dictate terms ...*(Interruptions)*... You cannot dictate terms...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I will refer...*(Interruptions)*... आप जाइए, आप सीनियर मैम्बर हैं। ...*(Interruptions)*... आप चलिए, पाणि जी, अपनी जगह पर बैठिए ... (व्यवधान)... आप लोग किसी की बात नहीं सुन रहे हैं...(व्यवधान)...

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Sir, my friend, Shri Narayanasamy, is a senior Member and responsible person holding a responsible post in the party. He is saying that I made some allegations. I only leave it to the Chair and to the wisdom of any Member, sitting on any side, if anyone can say that I made any allegation of corruption during my speech on the price rise. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: You did say. ...*(Interruptions)*... You did say. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Records are there. I will examine. Why are you ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: I said ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That is why I said, I will refer to the record. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*... आप जाइए ...(व्यवधान)...

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Sir ours was wisdom on statement. We did not mention about any corruption or any money, if at all. No corruption issue was raised by us. We raised about mismanagement and wrong policies and also I quoted the statement of the Prime Minister. I did not make any allegation. If I have made any allegation, I am ready to stand by it. My point is that he made an irresponsible and absurd allegation without knowing what he was speaking. Let him understand withdraw his statement and apologise to the House, otherwise you remove it from the records....*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The House is adjourned till 2 o' clock.

The House then adjourned for lunch at fifty-seven minutes past twelve of the clock.

The House re-assembled after lunch at two of the clock.

[MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair.]

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Naik, I have gone through the records and the allegation is of personal nature. Under the rules, it is not permissible. I request you to withdraw this.

श्री शान्ताराम लक्ष्मण नायक: सर, आप जैसे चाहें, वैसा निर्णय दीजिए।

श्री उपसभापति: मैं आपसे रिक्वेस्ट कर रहा हूँ कि आप इसे withdraw कर लीजिए।

SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Okay, Sir. But, let this be a proper precedent so that in future ..*(Interruptions)*.

श्री उपसभापति: यह तो percedent ही हो गया न!

SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: No, I want it to be a precedent ..*(Interruptions)*.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Naikji, let us discuss the issue. The whole nation is watching us how we discuss price rise.

SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: My whole intention was that Congress Party, as I said, we were not only born because of politics. If you see the history, we were born to answer the questions of poverty, hunger, and disease in this country. Politics came later on. We became a political party much later. These were the issues that we took unlike any other party which has been born as a political party. That is the difference, Sir, I would say that nobody should shed crocodile tears. I know people are very happy that some traders are getting benefit. Some people are very happy. So, they should not shed crocodile tears. We know the things. Secondly, Sir we have to consider that as far as prices are concerned, factor of increasing oil prices is a very important factor which contributes in price rise and which is not in our hands and who dismantled, rightly or wrongly, the whole earlier system as a result of which now every increase abroad in oil prices is followed by an increase in local prices. Now, dismantling was done by the BJP and they cannot run way from this concern. Then, Sir, question of selling oil at a higher price is one issue. When

there was scam of petrol pumps itself; petrol pumps were sold in a very ...(*Interruptions*). What I am saying is that when they are talking of increase in oil prices, we have to speak of petrol pumps also and petrol pump scam plays a very important role.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Then, you should discuss food-for-oil programme .....(*Interruptions*). Food for Oil Coupon, आप उसके बारे में बोल रहे हैं? आप फूड फॉर ऑयल कूपन के बारे में बोल रहे हैं, वोल्कर वाला, आपको वह कूपन मिला या नहीं!

श्री उपसभापति: नायडु जी, जब वह आएगा, तब उसके बारे में बोलिएगा।

SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Sir, how can he forget petrol pumps? So, we have to go to that story where petrol pumps were auctioned. You cannot run away from that. Then, Sir, Congress Party Government holds a record of having performed well in mid-1990s when inflation was less than five per cent. Nobody in this country has achieved such a miracle in the history of this country and, therefore, this is the Congress Party which has achieved this. It is only when BJP's shadow fell on South Block that things started deteriorating. Today, if you see the history of price rise after mid-90s, when their shadow fell on the South Block .....(*Interruptions*)... and on North Block .....(*Interruptions*). Therefore, we have got a track record of performing well. The question is that we have to see that hoarding and black-marketing is stopped; it is controlled. And, those who are involved in hoarding and black-marketing, in however high position they may be, whoever may be their protege, we should catch them. Therefore, stringent laws should be made and we should ensure that nobody, from any quarter, opposes when such stringent laws are enforced or when essential commodities laws are enforced. We have to see who are the persons who get up and oppose such legislation and such orders. At that time, things will be exposed but it is very essential.

Sir, the Government has taken certain measures as a part of its strategy to control prices. For example, 35 lakh tonnes of wheat is being imported, 42 lakh tonnes of free sale of sugar for the quarter from April to June, 2005 was made available, Customs duty on import of pulses was reduced to zero on June 8, 2006 and permits have been given to private traders to important wheat at reduced duty of five per cent.

Sir, these are some of the measures which are being taken. In spite of these things, I would appeal to the Government of India that with regard to essential commodities—may not be to the extent that we were enforcing

in earlier time but to some extent—and, if the Chief Ministers are asking for some teeth, for some powers to control hoarding of essential commodities, these things should be considered. Thank you very much.

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT (West Bengal): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to express the views of my Party on this very important subject. Sir, I heard with great interest and concentration also, not being diverted by the rhetorical flourishes, Mr. Venkaiah Naidu's speech on this, and, also the points which have been made by the Ruling party. (*Interruptions*) Sorry, is there any problem here? I think, the Samajwadi Party was supposed to speak. Would you like me to yield and ask him to speak, or, can I continue?

श्री उपसभापति: बनवारी लाल जी, आप अभी बोलना चाहेंगे या बाद में बोलेंगे?

श्री बनवारी लाल कंचाल (उत्तर प्रदेश): आप को बोलने दीजिए, मैं बाद में बोल लूंगा।

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Thank you very much. The point that I would like to make at the outset is that this whole issue of rising prices, skyrocketing prices is directly related to a particular framework of policies. within the neo-liberal framework. And as far as that is concerned, we find that there is a similarity in the policies followed by the NDA Government and the current policies being followed by the UPA Government. Sir, It was exactly the same position earlier, and, that is where I would request Mr. Venkaiah Naidu not to distort what has happened in the past but look at the records even of Parliament. Sir, excaclty the same speeches which are made by him today were made by the Congress Leaders at that time when they were in the Opposition and you were in the Ruling Party. Today, you have just changed position as far as rising prices are concerned. But there are those who have remained consistent. Consistent, why? Consistent, because we are not bothered about who is sitting in power and who is not. There is the consistency which is driven by a commitment to defend the interest of the mass of people in this country, and, it is precisely for this reasons that the language that we spoke in Parliament when the NDA was in power, the language that we spoke on the streets against rising prices when the NDA was in power, is exactly the same language that we are speaking today in Parliament when the UPA is in power, whether it is in Parliament, whether it is in the coordination committee or whether it is on the streets of this country. Why is it, Sir? It is so because rising prices are determined very clearly by the retreat of the

Government from its very basic commitment, duty and responsibility to defend the minimum requirements of the people of this country. We have also heard a lot, I am sorry that I have to start this speech by responding to what Mr. Venkaiah Naidu has said. But, I found some of the comments quite offensive. I mean, we have heard a lot about barking and biting and who bites in the morning and who bites at night and who barks in the afternoon and so on and so forth. What we are really concerned with, and, I think, Mr. Venkaiah Naidu will also appreciate that being committed to the parliamentary system of governance that is the bite of the *janta*. They have already experienced it in 2004. They have not learnt. In the last five State Assembly elections, the bite of the *janta* ensured that the BJP lost its deposits in most of the seats where its candidates stood. But, they have not learnt. आदरणीय वाजपेयी जी का हम लोग बहुत रेस्पेक्ट करते हैं, इज्जत करते हैं। यह अलग बात है कि अब बी॰जे॰पी॰ उनका respect नहीं करती है। वह अलग चीज़ है। ....(व्यवधान).... लेकिन सवाल यह है कि उन्होंने कहा कि बी॰जे॰पी॰ को कम्युनिस्टों से सीखना चाहिए। क्यों सीखना चाहिए, क्योंकि जनता का समर्थन हासिल करने में बंगाल का रिकॉर्ड है। कम-से-कम जो एक आदेश उनको दिया गया है, वे हमारी बात नहीं सुनें, जो हम कह रहे हैं उससे वे lessons न लें, लेकिन वे कम-से-कम वाजपेयी जी की बात तो सुन लें कि कम्युनिस्टों से कुछ तो सीखो, लेकिन खैर ... । So, therefore, the point is, as far as duplicity is concerned, Sir, the duplicity lies when you are in Government, you adopt a policy, adopt one language and when you come into opposition, you do exactly the opposite, but, the policy remains the same. Today, in this short intervention on rising prices, the main focus that I want to make is precisely on those three or four major policies which are required to be changed. The first point when we talk about rising prices, Sir, we have to understand that, and, I think, we know that, but I want to stress this point that one of the calculations of poverty is how much of a family's income is spent just to meet its food requirements. After all, we talk about the quality of life. Today, 95 per cent of this country are in the unorganised sector, the labour force. Therefore, I am earning a daily wage for which there are no laws today. If I get work, I may earn 15 rupees, I may earn 20 rupees. If, for a family of five, I have to spend 11 rupees or 12 rupees for one kilo *aata*, 98 per cent of what I am earning is spent on food. So, generally, throughout the world one of the measurements of poverty is how much does a family spend on its food requirements. Now, Chidambaramji is here, we are hearing so many great examples that he is following the American path. But, I am sure he knows that one of the measurements in America is that if one-

third of your family budget is spent on food, you are considered poor. In our country, if that standard is taken, 93 or 94 per cent of our people would be poor, not 26 per cent which fudged statistics are showing. But, even going by those statistics, today, nine out of ten families in rural India and seven out of ten families in urban India are spending 60 per cent of their budget on food requirements. And, that is not to say those food requirements. And, that is not to say those food requirement are met or that they are getting 2,400 calories a day which is the minimum which is required. But, this is the amount that is spent just on food. It is precisely because so much of the money which is earned by the mass of people is spent on this minimum requirement, that Government's responsibility becomes even more important. And, it is there, Sir, where the cruelty of the neo-liberal framework, the cruelty of a Budget which cuts down on food subsidy, the cruelty of a Ministry, when prices are rising, brings out a draft recommendation which is actually going to be considered by the Cabinet to cut APL/BPL quotas, to increase prices in the ration grains and to cut down the requirements in the name of the APL, I am going to come to that. What I am saying is that in a situation where our people require Government's support to meet the very basic needs for human survival, which is food, in such a situation, the UPA Government, following faithfully the footsteps one by one set by the NDA Government, is doing precisely the same thing. We know what its impact is. I work among women. I know what food insecurity means. He is talking about gas. How many people use it? Of course, I am happy that this Government—maybe, there may be some small influence from the Left—unlike the NDA, at least, has not increased the price of cooking gas. But I tell you, Sir, today it is a matter of shame to this country. UNICEF says that 50 per cent of our children are malnourished. See the figures of women's anaemia and weakness. It is not for natural reasons; it is because they do not get a balanced diet or proper nourishment. Due to the impact of food insecurity, there is rise in trafficking, and more and more women are selling their bodies just to meet their families' food requirements. This is the symbol of neo-liberal policies, and that is why the issue of rising prices has to be of concern to all sections of this House regardless of the party to which we belong.

One of the reasons for this dismal situation is the five times hike in petrol and diesel prices. As far as my party is concerned, we know that international oil prices are going up. We are very well aware of it. But what did we say to Mr. Chidambaram and his colleagues? International prices

of oil are going up, but why do you want to conceal the fact that you are benefited from international prices going up by your framework of duties and taxes? Out of every one rupee, Sir, which we are expected to pay for petrol, 55 per cent of that is tax. Of which, the largest share is that of the Central Government, followed by the State Governments. It is a fact with regard to the State Governments also. But the largest share is of the Central Government. We have given a note to this Government. We have shown to them how when prices are going up, and they are burdening the common people, the net increase in their revenues has been Rs. 38,000 crore. Because every time the international price goes up, automatically, the Government's income through the tax structure also goes up. At present, the Government's revenues from increased prices is Rs. 1,26,000 crore. We told this Government that you cut your duties, you cut your taxes, and save the common man and women from the burden. But what have they said? "Ask the State Governments to do it." That defies logic. We have said that we are prepared to do it. You first cut your taxes; you cut your duties; you bring it down and save the common man from the burden, and undoubtely, the State Governments will follow suit. But you have refused to do it.

Therefore, the first demand that we make is this. We want the Government to answer this. The Left has given a note to the Government, which is based on the facts and which is based on logic. Will the Government respond to that? Is the Government prepared to take the sense of this House and reverse its totally anti-people five times hike of diesel and petrol prices?

The second point I want to make, which has been made by my previous speakers, is that when prices are rising, certainly we have to look and see what are the measures that are immediately required to protect the poor from this. And one very important measure, which always has been, and we have been proud of it in India, is our strong Public Distribution System. We have seen, it is precisely the Public Distribution System which has afforded some relief to the people as far as food security is concerned.

Under the NDA Government, we have seen the most dreadful, dismal situation of six crore tonnes of foodgrains rotting in godowns, while people of this country were starving and then it exported it. They did not want to give it to the BPL families at lower price, but they gave it to foreign traders at Rs. 4 a kilo, while BPL families were not even given that much. We know what their record was. What we want to say is that this Government

should prevent itself from following the disastrous food policies of the NDA Government. This Government has a commitment in its Common Minimum Programme to stregthen the Public Distribution System. What do we find? The total and utter mishandling of wheat and the procurement policy. I have raised this before on the floor of the House I am sorry to say that this Government has failed utterly to give any convincing answer. First of all, they put the target of procurement only at 16 million tonnes. It's not that wheat production has fallen drastically. It's stagnating. We know it's stagnating. We are concerned about it. We ask this Government, give up your export-oriented drive in which you only want to export to save your foreign exchange and you don't bother about the food security of this country. We have told them that. So, production of foodgrains is a very important point. I am not going into those details. But what about procurement? What have they done? Only a million tonnes this year. It is precisely because they have a pro-big trader policy. They have removed all the restrictions which were there in the Agricultural Produce Marketing Act. They have allowed big traders including foreign traders to go anywhere in the country to procure wheat. They deliberately keep their own procurement price down so as to encourage the farmers and leave them with no choice but to sell to the big traders. And then, Sir, having done that, they destroy the Public Distribution System by huge slashes in wheat allocations. I want to draw the attention of the House to this. It has never come here, but I want to tell you the latest figures which are given about monthly allocation. In the Antyodaya, that is, Rs. 2 per kilogram, which you are supposed to give to Antyodaya families, the monthly allocation is slashed from 2.81 lakh tonnes to 2.55 lakh tonnes. Who has given them permission to do this? Where have they discussed this? The BPL allocation is slashed from 5.25 lakh tonnes to 4.46 lakh tonnes. And as far as APL is concerned, they have slashed it from 15 lakh tonnes to 1.94 lakh tonnes. In other words, the entire PDS is being destroyed systematically and one of the main reasons—the links between low procurement and slashing wheat quotas—is precisely because this Government wants to retreat from its basic responsibility of providing food security to the people of this country.

The second aspect of this is, they say, they are giving compensatory rice quotas. Where did you have these discussions? Have you discussed it with the State Governments? Have you discussed it here in Parliament? So, clandestinely, they are, in any case, destroying the Public Distribution System at a time when the basic demand has to be, to strengthen the

Public Distribution System. In that, Sir, we have been constantly saying, universalise the system, give up these BPL and APL business because in the name of APL, what you are actually doing is, you are dividing the poor because of the vague statistical manipulations to identify BPL. Again and again, we have raised it in this House. Shri Sharad Pawarji gave us an assurance that they are going to set up a committee along with the MPs in which we can look at this. They have not done it. But, in the meanwhile, saying that there is a very poor offtake from APL, they have actually drastically reduced the rights of the APL cardholders where, in fact, those APL cardholders are those who earn more than Rs. 311 a month.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: How much more time will you take?

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Sir, I will take five or ten minutes.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Your time is over.

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Sir, I will just finish. I have two more points to make. So, our demand is, strengthen the Public Distribution System and include other essential commodities. Why can't you include *dal*? We know what this Government's policy is. Sir, successive Governments have absolutely neglected the production of pulses in this country. In the last 30 years, production of pulses increased from 10 million tonnes to 15 million tonnes. This is the result of your food policy. Five million tonnes' increase in 30 years in the production of pulses in this country! This is the situation. It's pathetic. It's the neglect of the most important source of protein, *dal* or pulses. This is the situation. Therefore, what we are demanding is that oil, *dal* and other essential commodities must be included in the Public Distribution System so as to afford some minimum relief to the people of this country.

The third point I want to make, Sir, is the whole issue of future trade. We have raised it with this Government and we know how today, following the NDA, again I will say, we had some regulations, we had a law, Sir, to ensure that essential commodities are banned from future trade. It is the NDA Government which lifted that ban; 90 commodities were included, including the essential commodities, in future trading. And we know today how there is a huge expansion of speculative capital in the future trading market. When we raised it with the Government, they said, "No, no; farmers will benefit." How farmers are going to benefit? You just take one example of wheat. Last year, they had a future contract for three months; the price

at the end of that was around Rs. 680/-. One year later, what is it? It has gone up to Rs. 900/-. So, what is happening is, the speculative manipulations of essential commodities in future trading markets which were allowed by the BJP-led NDA Government are causing havoc with prices of essential commodities. And it is essential that we have a ban on essential commodities in future trading. Sir, even in organisations like UNCTAD, as he said, we have future trading. But keep essential commodities out of it, and we have done it, so far, in this country. But so pushed we are to encourage speculative capital, you want to increase profits without adding a single productive asset to this country's wealth. We want to allow them to have profit on this. Therefore, a very important demand today, when we talk about price-rise, is to ban future trading in essential commodities and to reverse what the BJP Government has done.

And, lastly, on the Essential Commodities Act, once again, I have to say that there were two decisions taken by the NDA Government. One was to reduce the list of essential commodities under the Essential Commodities Act. They brought it down from 79 to 15. So, that was one big blow to ensure some kind of security against the rising prices. The second thing they did, by another Government notification, was to remove all restrictions on the amount of stock any trader could keep. No restriction on movement, no restriction on stocks, no restriction when you have to bring them into the open market. In other words, that was a licence for hoarding. And that is one of the reasons why (a) the Government procurement has gone down; (b) a big portion of the stock has been ...(*Interruptions*)...

श्री जयन्ती लाल बरोट (गुजरात): आप जो बोल रही हैं ...(व्यवधान)

श्री उपसभापति: जयन्ती लाल जी आप चुप हो जाइए।

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: .....hoarded by big traders who are not bringing it into the open market, and (c) the Government is going along with the very bad policy decision. ...(*Interruptions*)... Sir, that is bound to happen. When you say something, it hurts them, Sir. i don't mind them whether they are biting or *. What they are doing, I don't have any objection to that. So, Sir, let them continue, but the point that I want to make, Sir, is ...(*Interruptions*)...and what I want to ask the Finance Minister today is, since the Congress Party itself ...(*Interruptions*)...

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

श्री रामदास अग्रवाल: उपसभापति महोदय, ये जो ...(व्यवधान)

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: I am not yielding, Sir. I am sorry, I am not yielding, Sir. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Just for a second, Shrimati Brinda Karatji.

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: I am not yeilding.

SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: You cannot use the word * in the Parliament. You cannot use the word * ...(*Interruptions*)... You have used it ...(*Interruptions*)...

श्री उपसभापति: * शब्द रिमूव कर दीजिए।...(*Interruptions*)... रामदास जी ...(व्यवधान) रामदास जी, आप छोड़िए उस बात को ...(व्यवधान) आप छोड़िए, आप उस बात में क्यों जा रहे हैं।

SHRI AMAR SINGH: This is the word which has been used in some reference. ...(*Interruptions*)... Please don't make it an issue.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY (Gujarat): Mr. Venkaiah Naidu only quoted Mr. Yechury.. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Sir, I am only quoting him. I have told, I have no objection. If Jaitley Saheb had given a little more of his very valuable time to listen to the speeches in Parliament, then, perhaps, he would have understood the context in which I have said it. But it does not matter; I have no objection to that. The point that I want to make, Sir, is that we don't mind. ...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: If somebody is interrupting; I have no objection; they can go on. I have only said, whether it is* or biting, they know; I am not interested in that. But the point that I want to make is that we want to know it from the Government of India. You have come to power on a programme which has assured the people of the country that you are going to reverse those anti-people, anti-poor policies which were followed by the NDA Government. One of those, Sir, is the whole issue of food security. The point is that we want to know straight from this Government: Are you or are you not going to rescind the pro-trader changes which were made in the Essential Commodities Act? Are you or are you not going to rescind the pro-hoarder changes which were made subsequently in that Act? As far as future trading is concerned, are you not going to ban—this

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

was a policy of your own previous Government—future trading in essential commodities? Having said this, I hope that this Government will learn lessons from the past and will prevent itself from taking the disastrous path which its predecessor took and which the people so aptly responded to in the 2004 general elections. Thank you.

श्री उपसभापति: श्री शरद यादव जी, बनवारी लाल जी ने कंसीड किया है क्योंकि आपको जाना है। आपकी पार्टी का पांच मिनट टाइम है।

श्री शरद यादव (बिहार): पांच मिनट में तो होगा कुछ नहीं।

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, just one minute because my name has been taken. I have not used the word * or "biting". I borrowed those words and quoted from her friend, the CPM leader, Shri Sitaram Yechury. I do agree that the words * and "biting" should not be used in parliamentary parlance. I felt painful. It was used in a television debate and that was continuously carried. (*Interruptions*)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: A television debate and a parliamentary debate are different. (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Sir, public is also equally important. If they feel that these words should not be used and the CPM is ready to withdraw them, I have no objection to withdraw myself. (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Sir, it can't be done. He can't put any condition. (*Interruptions*)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please.

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Sir, I just want to make a point. This is a typical BJP style. We are talking about rising prices. We are talking about burdens of the people. (*Interruptions*)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Okay.

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: I am not bothered about * and bites. The point is that the people are bitten by these high prices. That is what we are concerned about. I am not bothered about ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Sir, what is your ruling? Still he is standing by it. (*Interruptions*)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have removed the word *.

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*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

श्री शरद यादव: उपसभापति जी, वेंकैया जी और वृंदा कारत जी ने बहुत सी बातों को रख दिया है, मैं उनको दोहराऊंगा नहीं। लेकिन जो महंगाई है, उसका बहुत अच्छे ढंग से जिक्र, वृंदा कारत जी ने जो फूड सिक्योरिटी का मामला है, उससे जोड़ने का काम किया है। उपसभापति जी, वित्त मंत्री जी बैठे हैं, मैं उनसे निवेदन करूंगा कि जो भारत की खाद्यान्न सुरक्षा है, इसे एक सरकार ने नहीं, जितनी भी भारत में सरकारें आई हैं, उस खाद्यान्न सुरक्षा को लोगों ने मजबूत किया है। एक पार्टी का इसमें हाथ नहीं है। मैं यदि गलत नहीं हूं तो कांग्रेस पार्टी से लेकर के यूनाइटेड फ्रंट गवर्नमेंट हो या एन०डी०ए० सरकार हो, इस मामले में किसी सरकार ने कोई कोताही आज तक नहीं की है। वित्त मंत्री जी यहां बैठे हैं, गरीबी रेखा के नीचे जो अनाज है, वह आपकी अगुवाई में ही देवगौड़ा जी की सरकार थी और लेफ्ट के मित्र भी हम लोगों के साथ थे, आजादी के बाद इस देश में 27 हजार करोड़ रुपए का यदि गरीबों को कोई एकमुश्त बड़ा काम हुआ है तो वह गरीबी रेखा के नीचे जो गरीब रहते हैं, उनको सस्ते दाम पर अनाज देना, 27 हजार करोड़ रुपए का जो अभी आपने नया कार्यक्रम, जिसका आप बहुत जिक्र करते हैं, उसमें भी इतनी बड़ी सब्सिडी नहीं है। इस देश में जो सरकारें बनी हैं, क्योंकि रूस का जो विखंडन हुआ, उसके बाद दुनिया भर में जिस तरह से एक विचार हावी है, वह हमारे देश पर भी बहुत हावी हो गया है। हम दुनिया की हर चीज की नकल करने को उतारू हैं। इस तरह उतारू हैं, लगता है कि हमारा रंग कब बदल जाए, इस तक पर उतारू हैं। यानी इस इंडिजिनेंस भारतीय उपमहाद्वीप आदमी का रंग सांवला होता है, हमारा भगवान भी सांवला है, राम और कृष्ण। राम और कृष्ण एतिहासिक लोग नहीं हैं लेकिन लोक कथाओं से वे आज जीवित लोग हैं, उनका रंग भी सांवला है। लेकिन इस देश में ऐसी होड़ मची है कि हम अपना रंग भी बदल लें, तो हो सकता है कि नीतियों के अनुसार हम उनके साथ ज्यादा एकाकार हो जाएं। मैं आपसे इस महंगाई के सवाल पर गंभीरता से विनती करने के लिए खड़ा हुआ हूं कि जो दुनियाभर में तेल के दाम बढ़े हैं, वह एक कारण है। मैं वृंदा कारत जी से पूरी तरह से सहमत नहीं हूं कि पैसे के बगैर गरीबों के लिए कार्यक्रम और प्रोग्राम नहीं चल सकते हैं। जो आपको प्रपोजल है उससे मेरी सहमति नहीं है, लेकिन सम्पूर्ण तौर पर असहमति भी नहीं है, उसमें राहत देने की जरूरत है। लेकिन जो तीन कारण हैं, जिनका महंगाई से संबंध है, वह ऐसे रूप में आ गया है कि वह हर आदमी को काट रहा है यानी हमारी दाल-रोटी, चटनी-चटनी रोटी महंगी हो गई है, हम यहां आकर खड़े हो गये हैं। जब आम आदमी की बात होती है, तो मै समझती हूं कि दिहाड़ी मजदूर इस देश में लगभग 30 फीसदी है। हिन्दुस्तान में 30 फीसदी मजदूर और 35 फीसदी किसान हैं, ये बहुसंख्यक लोग हैं। ये बहुसंख्यक लोग गांव-भर में ही नहीं रहते हैं, दिल्ली में भी रहते हैं, मुम्बई में भी रहते हैं और ये यहां भी दिहाड़ी करते हैं, दिनभर की मजदूरी करते हैं। मैं मानता हूं कि आम आदमी का मतलब, आशय आपका इसी से था। वृंदा जी कह रही थीं कि एनडीए के जमाने में बहुत से ऐसे कदम उठे, मैं यकीन के साथ कह सकता हूं कि हमारे जमाने में कमोडिटी एक्सचेंज जो है, वह मुझे समझाया गया कि इसके आने के बाद किसानों को इसके वाजिब दाम मिलेंगे और मैंने भी कुछ कमोडिटी एक्सचेंजों

को अनुमति दी। मैं आज खड़े होकर इस सदन के भीतर कह रहा हूं कि मेरी सरकार होती, एनडीए की सरकार होती, तो मैं पहला आदमी होता जो इसको तत्काल बंद करता। महंगाई बढ़ी है, यह जो कमोडिटी एक्सचेंज है, वित्त मंत्री जी इसमें 650 के हिसाब से गेहूं खरीदा गया, वह बाजार में हजार रुपये तक ले गये। मैं उनके नाम लूंगा तो ठीक नहीं है। कभी आप अंतरंग मिलेंगे, तो मैं उनके नाम बता दूंगा, उन गुनाहगारों के जिनको मैं व्यक्तिगत रूप से जानता हूं। उन्होंने इस महंगाई में योग दान दिया है।

जो फूड सेक्योरिटी है उसका सबसे बड़ा हथियार एफसीआई था, सबसे बड़ा हथियार एफसीआई था। जो एफसीआई खरीदती है या देश का जो व्यापारी है वह खरीदता है, जो मंडी है उससे, लेकिन जो प्राईवेट ट्रेडर्स हैं, एशियन वीट बोर्ड, कारगिल, आईटीसी इनको आपने अनुमति दी है, लेकिन ये मंडी नहीं जाते हैं, ये गांव जाते हैं। हमारे देश के व्यापारी को गांव जाने की इजाजत नहीं है, लेकिन इनको गांव से भी गेहूं उठाने की इजाजत मिल गई है। वित्त मंत्री जी, मैं आपको बताऊंगा कि इन्होंने कितने बड़े दाम दिए हैं, आप जरूर अपने अफसरों को और अपने को लगाकर देख लें कि इन्होंने किसान को कोई बहुत ज्यादा दाम नहीं दिए हैं-165 है, तो 2 रुपये ज्यादा दे दिए हैं, 700 रुपये है, तो उस पर 5 रुपये, 3 रुपये दे दिए हैं, इससे ज्यादा इन्होंने दाम नहीं दिए हैं और इस तरह से इन्होंने खरीद की जो एक परम्परा थी..., कांग्रेस पार्टी के मित्रों, यह नीति अकेले हमने नहीं बनाई है, यह आपके द्वारा भी बनी है, आपने भी इसमें बहुत योगदान किया है। लेकिन आपके खड़े-खड़े ये दुनिया के पागलपन में आप अनाज को भी बाजार के सुपुर्द कर रहे हो, मैं आपको बताऊं कि इस देश में इतनी मार-काट हो जायेगी, जिसका अंदाजा नहीं लगाया जा सकता है। भूखा आदमी कुछ नहीं देखता है, वह इन्सान बदल जाता है। यह जो आपके पास एफसीआई का हथियार है, इसे बहुत लोग एक्युज करते हैं, बहुत लोग बोलते हैं, मैं आपसे कहना चाहता हूं कि एनडीए सरकार के जमाने में 62 मिलियन टन, 620 लाख टन अनाज वर्ष 2002 में हमारे पास था। जब हमने छोड़ा तो 400 लाख टन अनाज छोड़ा, हम लोग दुनिया में एक्सपोर्ट कर रहे थे, नम्बर एक पर हम चावल में थे और नम्बर 6 में हम वीट में थे। वृंदा जी में और हमारे में उसके बारे में मतभेद हैं, उसकी कैरिंग कॉस्ट लगायेंगे, तो बहुत गड़बड़ होगी। आप एक बार मेरे पास आई थीं और आपने कहा था कि फ्री ऑफ कॉस्ट दीजिए, मैं आपकी बात को भूला नहीं हूं। आपकी तरह बहुत से लोग आए थे कि फ्री ऑफ कॉस्ट होना चाहिए। उपसभापति महोदय, एनडीए सरकार के समय 14 सूबों में सूखा पड़ा और हमने 200 लाख टन अनाज दिया और उसमें से 100 लाख टन बिना पैसा लिए गरीबों को जहां पर ड्राउट था, वहां पर अनाज देने का काम किया। आपके विचार को, मैं पॉलिसी में तो नहीं बदल पाया लेकिन सौ लाख टन, बगैर धेला लिए, सौ लाख टन, यानी हजार क्विंटल अनाज देश के गरीब आदमी के पास गया। उस समय आपके राजस्थान में कांग्रेस पार्टी की सरकार थी। गहलोत यहां हैं नहीं, हर गांव में मैंने कहा कि दस बोरे, पांच बोरे पटक दो। अगर कोई भूखा मरा तो बात नहीं

बनेगी। निश्चित तौर पर कमॉडिटी एक्सचेंज में हमारी हिस्सेदारी है। हम क्यों हटाए गए? हमने कुछ गलतियां की होंगी इसलिए हटाए गए? मैं कह रहा हूं कि एसेंशियल कमॉडिटी में मिर्च है, उसमें शक्कर है, उसमें आलू आ गया है। यानी देश का कोई आदमी अगर दो सौ करोड़ रुपया हाथ में ले ले और इस देश की सरकार को गिराना चाहे, तो एक अरब का आलू खरीद ले, मैं आपको बताऊं कि देश में त्राहि-त्राहि हो जाएगी। हम बाजार के लिए इतनी मुरीद हो गये हैं, मैं आपसे करबद्ध प्रार्थना करता हूं, चिदम्बरम जी, आप भले आदमी हैं। मैं आपसे विनती करता हूं कि भोजन के मामले जो पुरानी नीति है, उस पर तत्काल वापस आइए। यदि महंगाई कम न हो तो चार महीने बाद जो मर्जी मुझे कहिए। मैं जमीन से आया हुआ आदमी हूं, मैं आपसे कह रहा हूं, देश भर में डेढ़ सौ लाख टन गरीबी रेखा से नीचे रहने वाले लोगों के पास अनाज जाता है। मैं नहीं कहता हूं कि उनके पास पहुंचता है। नहीं जा रहा है लेकिन वहां जाता है और वहां पर छोटा चोर जब उसे उठाता है तो वह अनाज दो रुपए, चार रुपए से ज्यादा नहीं बेचता है। जो कमॉडिटी एक्सचेंज वाला आदमी है, वह अरबों रुपए कमाता है। जब अनाज वहां जाता है, तो जो छोटे व्यापारी हैं, जिन्हें हम खुदरा व्यापारी कहते हैं, यदि मान लीजिए वह दो रुपए किलो तक खा लेता है तो वह इतना बड़ा गुनाह नहीं है, उसी बाजार में रह जाता है। लेकिन पिपरिया की दाल जाकर चेन्नई में बिक जाए। मैं पिपरिया, मध्य प्रदेश में गया था। वहां देखा कि पिपरिया में दाल की सबसे बड़ी मंडी है। उसमें पांच हजार क्विंटल दाल चेन्नई के बाजार में बिक रही है। वहां के बाजार में इसके दाम से ड्योढ़े दाम में बिक रही है। इसमें जो वायदा बाज़ार है, कमॉडिटी एक्सचेंज जो है, फ्यूचर ट्रेडिंग-इस मामले को आप तत्काल अरेस्ट करिए। एसेंशियल कमॉडिटीज़ जितनी हैं, मैं तो आपसे कहूंगा कि इसको नमस्कार करिए। जो कमॉडिटी एक्सचेंज हमने लगाया था, हम आपसे माफी मांगते हैं और आपसे निवेदन करते हैं कि इसमें तत्काल ताला लगाइए। इस देश में अनाज का व्यापार नहीं हो सकता। हमारी परम्परा में छोटे-छोटे बाजार हैं। उनका वहीं बैलेंस है। वहीं के वहीं आते हैं और वहीं के वहीं बिक जाते हैं एक तो यह कमॉडिटी एक्सचेंज है। एफसीआई, देश का मोनोपॉलि प्रोक्योरमेंट एफसीआई के जरिए था। एफसीआई एनडीए ने नहीं बनाया, बीजेपी ने नहीं बनाया। एफसीआई बहुत पहले बनी हुई है। उस एफसीआई से देश भर के लोगों का अनाज खरीदा जाता था। मेरे जमाने में मैं प्रधान मंत्री श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी जी से मिला। मैंने मक्का खरीदा, बाजरा खरीदा, उस समय देश में सिर्फ हरियाणा और पंजाब से धान खरीदी जाती थी। छत्तीसगढ़ में, बिहार में-आपने भी इस बार बिहार में खरीद करायी है, अच्छा काम किया है-उड़ीसा में, असम में, सब जगह डीसेंट्रलाइज़ प्रोक्योरमेंट हमने शुरू किया। वह हमारी सरकार ने किया। यानी फूड के मामले में, जब 14 सूबों में ड्राउट पड़ गया, तब भी देश में कहीं महंगाई का पता नहीं चला, किसी तरह की कोई दिक्कत नहीं आयी। उसका कारण अकेली हमारी सरकार है, यह मैं नहीं कह रहा हूं। हमारे से पहले भी सरकारों ने इसमें बहुत बड़ा योगदान किया है। जो एफसीआई है, उसमें जब प्रोक्योरमेंट होता है तो लगभग 9 लाख मजदूर लगते हैं। डेढ़ लाख तो बाकायदा सरकारी नौकरी में हैं। वहां गोदाम खाली पड़े हैं।

जो मजदूर लगे हुए हैं, उनको आप घर बैठे हुए तनख्वाह दे रहे हैं। जो आपके गोदाम हैं, उनमें गीदड़ बसे हुए हैं। एक दिन ऐसा आएगा जब आप कहेंगे कि एफसीआई सफेद हाथी हो गया, अब हर जगह की जमीन बेचो।

श्रीमती वृंदा कारत: प्राइवेटाइज़ कर रहे हैं।

श्री शरद यादव: प्राइवेटाइज़ कर दो। मैं आपसे कहूं कि आप सब चीज़ में प्राइवेट में जाइए। जो आपका माथा खराब है, मैं रोक नहीं सकता। दुनिया में किसी दूसरे मुल्क में बगावत हो तो आप दो मिनट में मान जाएंगे। लेकिन आप नहीं खड़े होंगे। दुनिया के दूसरे मुल्क में जरूर बगावत होगी, यह जो यूरोप और अमेरिका का दुनिया भर में रुतबा बरपा है, यह चलने वाला नहीं है। इसके खिलाफ तो बगावत होनी है। वह बगावत जब होगी, तब आप तत्काल बदल जाएंगे। आप उसमें लगे रहिए, उसमें हमको कुछ नहीं कहना है, लेकिन जो खाद्यान्न सुरक्षा है, जिसको सब सरकारों ने ठीक किया है, सब सरकारों ने मजबूत किया है, यह जो मोनोपोली प्रोक्योरमेंट एफ॰सी॰आई॰ का है, यह मामूली चीज़ नहीं है। एफ॰सी॰आई॰ में बहुत गड़बड़ है। एक तो रोड बनाने में गड़बड़ है। आज जो कारखाने बेच रहे हैं, उसमें गड़बड़ है। आप हमसे कुछ कहते हैं, हम आपसे कुछ कहते हैं। आप कहते हैं हमने सेंटूर होटल बेच दिया, गड़बड़ कर दी। हम आपसे कहते हैं कि आपने यह बेच दिया, गड़बड़ कर दी। लेकिन जो एफ॰सी॰आई॰ में गड़बड़ है, उससे हम बहुत चिंतित हैं। आपके एग्रीकल्चर मिनिस्टर जो हैं, उनके दिमाग में यह है कि इसको पूरी तरह से बाज़ार के सुपुर्द कर दो, तो किसान को मिलेगा-ऐसा उनका परसेप्शन है। उनका गलत परसेप्शन है। आप निकाल लीजिए, दूसरे जो मल्टीनेशनल्स या बाकी लोगों को आपने दिया है, आप निकाल लीजिए कि उसकी खरीद से किसान को ज्यादा मिल गया हो, तो मैं अपनी बात को वापस ले लूंगा। एक बात और जान लीजिए, सरकार के, सभी कांग्रेस पार्टी के लोग बैठे हैं, यह वित्त मंत्रालय कोई बहुत बड़ी चीज़ नहीं है, यह जो सिविल एविएशन मिनिस्ट्री है, यह कोई बहुत बड़ी चीज़ नहीं है, यह जो आई॰टी॰ मिनिस्ट्री है, वह कोई बहुत बड़ी चीज़ नहीं है। भारत के लिए एग्रीकल्चर मिनिस्ट्री, फूड एंड सिविल सप्लाइज़ मिनिस्ट्री और कंज्यूमर अफेयर्स मिनिस्ट्री-ये हैं, देश की आम जनता की सबसे बड़ी जान। ये तीनों ठीक हैं, तो आपकी सरकार आगे भी आ जाएगी और यदि ये ठीक नहीं हैं, तो अता-पता नहीं चलेगा वित्त मंत्री जी, आपका और सरकार के लोगों का! पता नहीं चलेगा आपका। गरीब आदमी जब खड़ा होता है, तो उसके पास तो खोने के लिए कुछ नहीं होता है। उसके पास तो एक हथियार है वोट का और उससे सच्चा कोई इंसान नहीं होता है। महात्मा जी कहते हैं कि हिंदुस्तान के पूरे देश में मैं पढ़े-लिखे लोगों को हृदयहीन मानता हूं। जो स्कूल नहीं गया, उसके पास हृदय है, उसी के पास सब कुछ इंसानियत का जलजला है। कांग्रेस पार्टी के मित्रों और वित्त मंत्री जी, मैं आपसे निवेदन करना चाहता हूं कि आप अपनी राह और रास्ते पर चल दिए, आपके मानस की बनावट ऐसी है कि आप मेरी बात को पूरी तरह नहीं मानेंगे, लेकिन मेरी इस बात को पक्का मान लीजिए कि मैं यह

कह रहा हूं कि हाथ में पांच उंगलियां हैं, तो यही सही है, इसको मान लीजिए और अपने अफसरों से कहिए। आपके पास पूरे देश का इंतजाम है। मामूली हथियार आपके पास नहीं है। आज जो हम कह रहे हैं, वेंकैया जी और वृंदा कारत जी की पार्टियों की विचारधारा होगी, लेकिन दोनों ने महंगाई के बारे में दिल से बात कही है। निश्चित तौर पर आप पता लगा लीजिए कि जो खाद्यान्न सुरक्षा है, इसके चलते महंगाई जो है, वह एफ॰सी॰आई॰, आपने फूड सिक्योरिटी का जो सबसे बड़ा हथियार है, उसको निकम्मा किया है, प्राइवेट ट्रेडर्स से जो खरीद कराई है और जो कमोडिटी एक्सचेंज है, हां, मैं मानता हूं कि तेल के जो दाम हैं, वे आपके हाथ में नहीं हैं, उनके चलते भी महंगाई बढ़ी है, लेकिन ये जो तीन चीज़ें हैं, वे महंगाई बढ़ाने में सबसे बड़ा कारण हैं, इसकी सरकार खोज करे। इसके बारे में यदि आपको हमारी बात सच्ची लगती है, ठीक लगती है, तो सुधरना चाहिए, क्योंकि हमको ज़िद नहीं करनी चाहिए। हम देश के लिए हैं, यह देश की जनता के हित में मैं कह रहा हूं कि कमोडिटी एक्सचेंज को मैंने परमिशन दी थी। उपसभापति महोदय, मैं पछताता हूं। मैं बहुत दिन तक इसको रोके रहा। जो सेक्रेटरी थे, उन्होंने मेरा दिमाग समझ लिया। इस देश का जो ब्यूरोक्रेट है, वह तो अजीब चीज़ है। यह समझ जाएगा कि आपका दिमाग क्या है? आपकी मेंटल स्थिति क्या है? तो वह आपको वही सब चीज़ समझा देगा। मुझे समझा दिया क्योंकि मैं गांव का आदमी हूं, देहाती आदमी हूं, किसान आदमी हूं, तो बोले कि इससे किसान को बड़ा लाभ होगा। मैं उनकी बात में आ गया, लेकिन आज मैं मानता हूं कि हमसे गलती हुई। उस गलती को आप सुधारिए। आप कहते हैं एसेंशियल कमोडिटी एक्ट हमने बनाया था, तो आपको सरकार इसलिए दी है कि एसेंशियल कमोडिटी एक्ट का जो चीफ मिनिस्टर है, उसको आप बुलाइए। वह तीन दिन, तीन महीने या चार महीने महंगाई बढ़ने के बाद, छः महीने बाद आकर आपको बता रहा है कि एसेंशियल कमोडिटी एक्ट हमने 2002 में बैकआउट कर दिया, इसलिए हम कुछ नहीं कर पाए। अरे, वह तो निकम्मा आदमी है, उसको निकालकर बाहर कीजिए। उसको हटाइए। यह आपके हाथ में है। इसी पार्लियामेंट में, तत्काल आप एसेंशियल कमोडिटी एक्ट को रिपील कीजिए, हटाइए उसको। देश में बड़ा कौन है? जनता से बड़ा कौन है? फिर आपने तो वादा किया आम आदमी का! आम आदमी की दिक्कत ऐसी बढ़ी है कि दाल-रोटी में भी, चटनी-रोटी में भी दिक्कत है। दाल छोड़िए, रोटी में भी होगी। नमक के साथ रोटी खाना भी मुश्किल हो गया लोगों का। इसलिए उपसभापति जी, आपके माध्यम से मैं कहना चाहता हूं कि ये तीन कारण हैं। वित्त मंत्री जी, एक काम और करें कि जो पी॰डी॰एस॰ है, पब्लिक डिस्ट्रिब्यूशन सिस्टम है, हमारी सरकार के समय, मेरे मंत्री बनने के बाद मैंने दो बार मीटिंग बुलाई थी। प्राइम मिनिस्टर ने सारे अपोजिशन को बुलाया था और यह तय हो गया था कि मुख्य मंत्री बुलाइए। मैंने कहा था कि केवल फूड मिनिस्टर्स के बुलाने से काम नहीं चलेगा, आप मुख्य मंत्रियों को बुलाइए। साउथ में ठीक है, जो आपके सूबे हैं, उनमें जो पब्लिक डिस्ट्रीब्यूशन सिस्टम है, वह बहुत अच्छा है। यह उत्तर भारत के एक-दो सूबों में भी बहुत अच्छा है। आप मुख्य

मंत्रियों को बुलाइए और पीडीएस की जिम्मेदारी इनको दीजिए। फिर देखिए, आप महंगाई की लगाम पकड़ पाते हैं या नहीं पकड़ पाते है। इसलिए तत्काल पीडीएस के माध्यम से डेढ़ सौ लाख टन, दो सौ लाख टन अनाज गरीब आदमी के पास जाता है, तो इससे बड़ा हथियार आप के पास और कोई है? यह आपको देश की जनता दे रही है। आप स्वयं उनको इतनी बड़ी सब्सिडी दे रहे हैं। मैं चाहूंगा कि जब आप जवाब दें तो बताएं कि आप मुख्य मंत्रियों की मीटिंग कब बुला रहे हैं। आप आल पार्टीज की मीटिंग बुलाइए और इसको ठीक से कंट्रोल करिए। जो पीडीएस है, एफसीआई है, आप इसके कमोडिटीज एक्सचेंज को क्लोज करिए और इन दो सवालों को फिर से रिवाइव करिए। आप फिर से पुरानी रीति पर आइए, पुराने रास्ते पर आइए। आप जिन-जिन रास्तों में आगे जाना चाहते हैं, जाइए। आपको आगे जाकर समझ में आएगा कि आप ठीक रास्ते पर नहीं हैं। इन्हीं शब्दों के साथ, मैं अपनी बात समाप्त करता हूं। आपने मुझे बोलने का थोड़ा समय ज्यादा दिया, इसके लिए मैं आपका हृदय से धन्यवाद करता हूं।

श्री बनवारी लाल कंचाल: उपसभापति महोदय, सबसे पहले मैं श्री शरद यादव जी को बधाई देना चाहता हूं कि इन्होंने महंगाई के प्रश्न पर बहुत ही स्टीक और सकारात्मक विचार रखे हैं। हमारे दो-तीन और भाइयों ने जो विचार रखे हैं, वे महंगाई पर न रखकर घोटालों पर रखे हैं, जबकि इस समय महंगाई देश का सबसे बड़ा मुद्दा है। मैं समाजवादी पार्टी का कार्यकर्ता होने के नाते और उसका सांसद होने के नाते, केवल महंगाई के ऊपर ही अपनी बात रखूंगा। हमारे कांग्रेस के मित्रों ने जो कहा है और वृन्दा कारत जी ने कहा है कि आवश्यक वस्तु अधिनियम के हट जाने से महंगाई बढ़ी है, यह बात सरासर असत्य है। इससे असत्य बात कोई और हो नहीं सकती है। मैं कहना चाहता हूं कि 1993 में इस देश के सबसे सच्चे मुख्य मंत्री श्री मुलायम सिंह यादव जी ने आवश्यक वस्तु अधिनियम उत्तर प्रदेश से समाप्त किया था। मुझे यह कहते हुए बड़ा गर्व है कि उसको खत्म करने के बाद उत्तर प्रदेश में कोई महंगाई नहीं बढ़ी। यह कहना सरासर गलत है कि आवश्यक वस्तु अधिनियम के खत्म कर देने से महंगाई बढ़ी। है। मैं कहना चाहता हूं कि जब महंगाई की बात हो रही है तो घूम फिरकर केवल गेहूं के ऊपर ही क्यों बात की जा रही है, क्यों नहीं देश की सारी चीजों पर बात हो रही है। महोदय, आवश्यक वस्तु अधिनियम सोने-चांदी के ऊपर लागू नहीं है। मैं कहना चाहता हूं कि सोने-चांदी के दाम उतने आजादी के बाद पचास सालों में नहीं बढ़े हैं, जितने केवल इन दो सालों में बढ़े हैं। ताम्बे और पीतल पर एशेंसियल कमोडेटीज नहीं है, कोई कानून लागू नहीं है। मैं यह पूछना चाहता हूं कि अस्सी रुपए किलो का ताम्बा आज साढे चार सौ रुपए किलो क्यों बिक रहा है। 135 रुपए किलो का पीतल आज पांच सौ रुपए किलो क्यों बिक रहा है? एल्युमीनियम पर आवश्यक वस्तु अधिनियम लागू नहीं है, आज उस पर महंगाई क्यों बढ़ गई है? आज स्टील के दामों पर महंगाई क्यों बढ़ गई है, आज आलू और प्याज के दामों पर मंहगाई क्यों बढ़ गई है, जब कि उन पर आवश्यक वस्तु अधिनियम लागू नहीं है। कांग्रेस पार्टी के मित्र अपनी नाकामियों को

छिपाने के लिए और महंगाई से त्रस्त जनता का ध्यान मोड़ने के लिए और व्यापारियों को दोषी बनाने के लिए गलत बातें कह रहे हैं। महोदय, सदन में ये गलत बातें नहीं कही जानी चाहिएं। महोदय, मैं अपने साथियों से यह निवेदन करना चाहता हूं कि जब व्यापारियों की बात आई, व्यापारियों में से भी आपको यह तय करना पड़ेगा कि कौन व्यापारी है और कौन बड़ा व्यापारी है? आज आईटीसी को भी व्यापारी कहा जा रहा है और कारगिल को भी व्यापारी कहा जा रहा है। यदि दाम बढ़ाने का काम किया है तो आई टी सी और कारगिल जैसी कम्पनियों ने किया है। आज जो मंडी में बैठा हुआ आढ़ती है, बाजार में बैठा हुआ गल्ले का व्यापारी है, उसने महंगाई बढ़ाने का काम नहीं किया है। शरद यादव जी ने ठीक ही कहा है कि गल्ले का एक छोटा सा व्यापारी, एक खुदरा व्यापारी, एक मंडी में बैठा हुआ आढ़ती एक रुपया किलो, दो रुपया किलो का मुनाफा ले लेगा और गेहूं के बोरे में तो वह पांच रुपए से ज्यादा का मुनाफा नहीं ले पाता है। इसलिए यह कहना कि कारगिल के लोगों के ऊपर कोई सीमा नहीं है, अभी जमाखोरी की बात नायक साहब कह रहे थे, यदि जमाखोरी में बंद करना है तो कारगिल कम्पनी को बंद कीजिए, आईटीसी कम्पनी को बंद कीजिए और व्यापारी की बात कारगिल से हटाकर कीजिए। मान्यवर, मैं डंके की चोट पर कह रहा हूं कि हिंदुस्तान का छोटा व्यापारी, गल्ले का व्यापारी और गांवों तथा शहरों में जो हमारे परंपरागत बाजार हैं, हमारे देहातों और मंडियों में जो व्यापारी हैं, वे कभी भी महंगाई बढ़ाने का काम नहीं करते हैं, जमाखोरी करने का काम नहीं करते हैं। उन व्यापारियों के पास इतनी पूंजी नहीं है। वह ज्यादा से ज्यादा खरीद लेगा, तो एक हजार बोरे खरीदकर रख लेगा, पांच हजार बोरे खरीद लेगा, दस हजार बोरे खरीद लेगा, लेकिन जब कारगिल कंपनी खरीदती है, तो करोड़ों-करोड़ बोरे खरीदती है। वह उत्तर प्रदेश में खरीदती है, तो साउथ में बेचती है, साउथ में खरीदती है, तो पंजाब में बेचती है, पंजाब में खरीदती है, तो कश्मीर में बेचती है। इसलिए मेरा सुझाव है कि इन बड़ी कंपनियों की खरीद पर पाबंदी जरूर लगनी चाहिए। आज जो महंगाई देश में बढ़ी है, यह केवल कुछ चीजों में नहीं बढ़ी है, बहुत सी चीजों में बढ़ी है और यह महंगाई कांग्रेस पार्टी की किसान विरोधी नीति और व्यापारी विरोधी नीति के कारण ही बढ़ी है।

उपसभापति जी, मैं यह कहना चाहता हूं कि कुछ साल पहले एक किसान एक बोरा गेहूं बेचता था और उससे एक हजार ईंटें खरीद लेता था, लेकिन आज किसान ढ़ाई बोरा गेंहू बेचता है, तब एक हजार ईंटें खरीद पाता है। आवश्यक वस्तु अधिनियम खाद पर लागू है। आवश्यक वस्तु अधिनियम पर, भाजपा सरकार ने खाद पर से 3/7 नहीं हटाया था। मैं पूछना चाहता हूं कि खाद का दाम जो वर्ष 2002 में 215 रुपए प्रति बोरा था, आज 265 रुपए प्रति बोरा क्यों हो गया है? खाद का दाम किसने बढ़ाया, बीज का दाम किसने बढ़ाया? यह कांग्रेस पार्टी की किसान विरोधी नीति ने बढ़ाया और आज किसान आत्महत्या करने पर उतारू है। लाखों किसानों ने आत्महत्या कर ली, महाराष्ट्र में आत्महत्या कर ली। हमारे प्रधानमंत्री जी वहां गए थे, उन्होंने विदर्भ के लिए 1,500 करोड़ रुपए का

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पैकेज दिया। हम उत्तर प्रदेश के किसानों के लिए पैकेज मांगते रहे, लेकिन हमारे साथ भेदभाव किया गया और हमें सौतेला बना दिया गया। उत्तर प्रदेश को कोई पैकेज नहीं दिया गया, लेकिन विदर्भ को दिया गया और जब प्रधानमंत्री जी विदर्भ के किसानों को पैकेज देकर आए, उसके बाद विदर्भ में 62 किसानों ने आत्महत्याएं कर लीं, इससे बड़ी शर्म की बात और क्या हो सकती है?

उपसभापति जी, आज गेहूं बाहर से आयात किया जा रहा है और लगभग 900 रुपए प्रति क्विंटल के भाव पर आयात किया जा रहा है। हमारे उत्तर प्रदेश के मुख्यमंत्री जी ने कहा कि हम साढ़े आठ रुपए किलो गेहूं देने के लिए तैयार हैं, कांग्रेस सरकार हमसे खरीद ले, लेकिन हमसे नहीं खरीदा गया, लेकिन 900—950 रुपए प्रति क्विंटल के हिसाब से आप बाहर से गेहूं मंगा रहे हैं, इससे खराब बात क्या हो सकती है? इसलिए मैं यह कहना चाहता हूं कि आज किसान बहुत दुःखी है। आज मध्यम दर्जे के व्यापारी और मध्यम दर्जे के नागरिक, मध्यम दर्जे के लोग, जो इस उदारीकरण की नीति की प्रशंसा कर रहे थे और कह रहे थे कि उदारीकरण की नीति से बहुत परिवर्तन आ जाएगा ...(व्यवधान)

श्री राजीव शुक्ल (महाराष्ट्र): उपसभापति जी, मैं कुछ कहना चाहता हूं।

श्री उपसभापति: वे यील्ड नहीं कर रहे हैं।

श्री बनवारी लाल कंचाल: राजीव जी, मैं नया सदस्य हूं, मुझे बोलने दीजिए, आप पुराने सदस्य हैं ...(व्यवधान) रुक जाइए, मुझे बोलने दीजिए ...(व्यवधान)

श्री राजीव शुक्ल: आपने जो बात कही है, उसी सिलसिले में मैं बोलना चाहता हूं। मुझे जो सूचना है, उसके हिसाब से इस बार गेहूं की सबसे कम खरीदारी उत्तर प्रदेश में हुई है, सिर्फ 50,000 टन का योगदान उत्तर प्रदेश ने दिया है और इसी की वजह से यह संकट है ...(व्यवधान) उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार के नाकारापन की वजह से यह संकट है। इसके लिए कौन जिम्मेदार है?

श्री शाहिद सिद्दिकी (उत्तर प्रदेश): आप किसान का पेट काटना चाहते हो ...(व्यवधान) आप उत्तर प्रदेश के किसानों की उपेक्षा कर रहे हैं ...(व्यवधान)

†[شری شاہد صدیقی : آپ کسان کا پیٹ کاٹنا چاہتے ہو ـــــ مداخلت ـــــ آپ اتر پردیش کے کسانوں کی اپیکشا کر رہے ہیں ـــــ مداخلت ـــــ]

श्री उपसभापति: सिद्दिकी साहब, आप बैठिए ...(व्यवधान)

श्री बनवारी लाल कंचाल: राजीव जी की बात सही नहीं है ...(व्यवधान)

श्री उपसभापति: आप लोग बैठिए प्लीज़।

श्री बनवारी लाल कंचाल: मान्यवर, मैं निवेदन करना चाहता हूं कि हमारे प्रदेश के मुख्यमंत्री जी ने केन्द्र सरकार से आग्रह किया था कि समर्थन मूल्य को साढ़े छह सौ रुपए से बढ़ाकर साढ़े आठ सौ रुपया कर दिया जाए, क्योंकि साढ़े छह सौ रुपए का समर्थन मूल्य बहुत कम है, लेकिन

† Transliteration in Urdu Script.

3.00 P.M.

केन्द्र सरकार ने इसे नहीं माना और इन्होंने समर्थन मूल्य बढ़ाने का काम नहीं किया। आप आठ सौ रुपया हिंदुस्तान के किसान को नहीं दे सकते हो, लेकिन नौ सौ रुपए में आस्ट्रेलिया से गेहूं खरीद सकते हो, इससे बड़ी खराब बात और क्या हो सकती है? महंगाई जो बढ़ी है, वह इसीलिए बढ़ी है।

उपसभापति जी, महंगाई बढ़ने के छह कारण हैं, शरद जी ने तीन कारण बताए थे, मैं छह कारण बता रहा हूं। पहला कारण है– किसान विरोधी और व्यापारी विरोधी नीति। हमारी केन्द्र सरकार को अपनी किसान विरोधी नीति छोड़नी पड़ेगी। किसानों को उनकी फसल का मूल्य ज्यादा से ज्यादा देना पड़ेगा। अगर आप किसान को उसकी फसल का ज्यादा से ज्यादा मूल्य नहीं देंगे, तो किसान कभी भी सरसब्ज़ नहीं पाएगा। तो कभी भी किसान की खरीददारी की power, capacity नहीं बढ़ पाएगी और अगर उसकी purchasing capacity नहीं बढ़ेगी, तो व्यापार नहीं बढ़ेगा और यदि व्यापार नहीं बढ़ेगा, तो उद्योग-धंधे नहीं बढ़ेंगे। इसलिए आपको किसान विरोधी नीति को त्यागना पड़ेगा और किसान के पक्ष में आपको नीति बनानी होगी, जिससे देश में तरक्की हो सके और किसानों की purchasing capacity बढ़ सके।

आप जिस व्यापार विरोधी नीति की बात कर रहे हैं कि आप Essential Commodities Act लगा देंगे, तो अगर आपको इसे लगाना है, तो लगा दें, लेकिन मैं बताना चाहता हूं कि उत्तर प्रदेश में Essential Commodities Act किसी कीमत पर नहीं लगेगा। आपको इसे लगाना है, तो लगा दें। अगर आप व्यापारियों के ऊपर भ्रष्टाचार बढ़ाना चाहते हों, इंस्पेक्टर राज बढ़ाना चाहते हों, उनकी लूट-मार करना चाहते हों, भ्रष्टाचार बढ़ाना चाहते हों, तो आप बढ़ा दें, परन्तु मैं आपसे निवेदन करना चाहता हूं कि अगर समाजवादी पार्टी सरकार ने इस आवश्यक वस्तु अधिनियम को खत्म कर दिया है, तो आपको इसे लगाने का कोई अधिकार नहीं है, क्योंकि आवश्यक वस्तु अधिनियम में ना वकील है, न दलील है, न अपील है, केवल लूटमार है, इसके अलावा कुछ नहीं है। अगर आपने आवश्यक वस्तु अधिनियम लागू करने का काम किया, तो हिन्दुस्तान के 16 करोड़ व्यापारी समाजवादी पार्टी के नेतृत्व में सड़क से लेकर संसद तक की लड़ाई लड़ेंगे और आवश्यक वस्तु अधिनियम लागू नहीं करने देंगे।

मान्यवर, मैं बताना चाहता हूं कि हमारे चिदम्बरम साहब ने वैट लागू कर दिया है। वैट लागू करने से सारे प्रदेशों में 10 परसेंट महंगाई बढ़ी है। मुझे बड़ी खुशी है, बड़ा गर्व है कि हमारे प्रदेश के मुख्यमंत्री, मुलायम सिंह यादव जी ने उत्तर प्रदेश में वैट नहीं लगाया और मैं कहना चाहता हूं कि अन्य प्रदेशों के मुकाबले, जहां कांग्रेस की सरकार है या जहां भाजपा की सरकार है, उनके मुकाबले में हमारे उत्तर प्रदेश में 10 परसेंट महंगाई कम है और वहां महंगाई कम-से-कम बढ़ी है, जबकि दूसरे प्रदेशों में महंगाई बहुत ज्यादा बढ़ी है।

तीसरी बात है– सर्विस टैक्स लागू करना। सर्विस टैक्स 10 परसेंट से बढ़ा कर 12.5 परसेंट कर दिया गया है और सर्विस टैक्स का दायरा भी बढ़ा दिया गया है। सर्विस टैक्स के कारण सारी चीजें

महंगी टैक्स के कारण सारी चीजें महंगी हो गई हैं और बहुत सी चीजें और भी महंगी होने वाली हैं। इसलिए मैं आदरणीय वित्त मंत्री जी से कहना चाहता हूं, निवेदन करना चाहता हूं कि सर्विस टैक्स में 2.5 परसेंट दर बढ़ाई गई है, तो सर्विस टैक्स में 5 परसेंट से ज्यादा टैक्स नहीं होना चाहिए। हमारे यहां इनकम टैक्स लागू है, वैट लागू है, सेल्स टैक्स लागू है, 50 प्रकार के टैक्स लागू हैं, इसके बाद सर्विस टैक्स की दरें इतनी बढ़ाते जाना लोगों की कमर तोड़ना है, लोगों के घरों के चूल्हे-चौके बन्द करने के बराबर है। इसलिए सर्विस टैक्स पर पाबन्दी लगनी चाहिए।

इसके बाद केन्द्र सरकार द्वारा किसानों को जो उचित मूल्य नहीं दिया जा रहा है, उस पर विचार किया जाना चाहिए और कारगिल और आईटीसी जैसी कंपनियों को पूरे हिन्दुस्तान में खरीदारी करने के लिए प्रतिबन्धित किया जाना चाहिए।

महंगाई बढ़ने का जो सबसे बड़ा कारण है, जिसे शरद यादव जी ने भी कहा, वह है– वायदा व्यापार। आज वायदा व्यापार में 500 से लेकर 600 चीजों का व्यापार हो रहा है। आलू का व्यापार भी छोटे से कम्प्यूटर में हो रहा है, प्याज का व्यापार भी हो रहा है, सोने-चांदी का व्यापार हो रहा है, गल्ले का व्यापार हो रहा है, तिलहन का व्यापार हो रहा है, तेल का व्यापार हो रहा है। मान्यवर उपसभापति महोदय, अगर हम छोटी-सी दुकान खोलते हैं, तो हमें मंडी का लाइसेंस लेना पड़ता है, सेल्स टैक्स का लाइसेंस लेना पड़ता है, एक करोड़ के व्यापार के लिए 1.5 करोड़ की पूंजी जुटानी पड़ती है, परन्तु इस वायदा व्यापार में व्यापार करने वालों को कोई रजिस्ट्रेशन नहीं लेना पड़ता है, कोई सेल्स टैक्स का रजिस्ट्रेशन नहीं लेना पड़ता है, पीएनआर नंबर नहीं लेना पड़ता है और एक करोड़ का व्यापार करने के लिए अगर वह केवल 10 परसेंट सिक्योरिटी जमा कर दे तो एक करोड़ का व्यापार कर सकता है। इसमें डिलिवरी नहीं देनी होती है। छद्म व्यापार होता है। इसलिए मैं अपने आदरणीय केन्द्रीय वित्त मंत्री जी से अनुरोध करना चाहता हूं कि अगर वे देश में मंहगाई को रोकना चाहते हैं और अगर यह सरकार जनहित में काम करना चाहती है, तो वायदा व्यापार, जिसने सट्टे और जुए का रूप ले लिया है, जिसके कारण जिलों-जिलों में करोड़ों-करोड़ सैंकडों करोड़ रुपए का नुकसान वहाँ के व्यापारियों को पहुँच चुका है और एक हजार करोड़ से ज्यादा रुपया हर महीने विदेशों में जा रहा है, जिससे यह देश खोखला होता जा रहा है, यह देश कंगाल होता जा रहा है, उसे बन्द किया जाए। मान्यवर, इसलिए अगर यह सरकार वायदा व्यापार खत्म नहीं कर सकती है, तो इस पर दो शर्तें जरूर लगा देनी चाहिए। माननीय वित्त मंत्री जी, इस पर जो 10 परसेंट सिक्योरिटी है, उसे बढ़ा कर 25 परसेंट कर दें और इसमें जो डिलिवरी नहीं होती है, उस डिलिवरी को अनिवार्य कर दें। सट्टे बाजार में, वायदा व्यापार में अगर कोई माल बिके, तो उसकी डिलिवरी अनिवार्य कर दी जाए और सिक्योरिटी 25 परसेंट बढ़ा दी जाए। अगर ये दो छोटे-से सुधार कर दिए जाएँ। तो मैं समझता हूँ कि वायदा व्यापार का यह जो गोरखधंधा है, वह खत्म हो जाएगा और इससे महंगाई नहीं बढ़ पाएगी।

मैं अन्त में कहना चाहता हूँ कि अगर सरकार नमक, पानी, आलू, प्याज जैसी चीजों पर भी महंगाई नहीं रोक सकी, तो हम जो आज सांसद बनकर आए हैं, आम आदमी को क्या जवाब देंगे? अन्यथा हम जो आज सांसद बनकर आए हैं, आम आदमी को क्या जवाब देंगे? आज नमक का भाव भी 8 रुपए से बढ़कर 12 रुपए किलो हो गया है, प्याज का दाम 4-5 रुपए बढ़ गया है। अभी वैंकेया नायडु जी कह रहे थे, कि वहां टमाटर का दाम एक रुपये किलो है, लेकिन हमारे लखनऊ में टमाटर 30 रुपए किलो है। इस कारण टमाटर लोगों को खाने को नहीं मिल रहा है। आलू के दाम भी महंगे हो गए हैं। महोदय, आम आदमी का खाना नमक रोटी या चटनी रोटी है। हमारी पार्टी रिक्शा वालों, ठेले वालों, मजदूरों, गरीबों और किसानों की पार्टी है। मैं कहना चाहता हूं कि इस देश में 75 प्रतिशत किसान रहता है और अगर किसान को रोटी का निवाला नहीं मिलेगा, नमक नहीं मिलेगा, वह चटनी रोटी भी नहीं खा पाएगा, अपने बच्चों को पढ़ा नहीं पाएगा, कपड़ा नहीं खरीद पाएगा तो यह देश चल नहीं सकता है।

महोदय, आज देश में मकान बनाने की चीजों के दाम भी बहुत बढ़ गए हैं। सीमेंट का दाम सौ रुपए से बढ़कर 210 रुपए बोरी हो गया है। मैं सीमेंट का व्यापारी हूं। हमारे लखनऊ शहर में वर्ष 2002 में सीमेंट का दाम सौ रुपए बोरी था, आज वह 210 रुपए हो गया है। बजरी का दाम बढ़ा है, मोरंग का दाम बढ़ गया है और लकड़ी का दाम भी बढ़ गया है। मैं सरकार से पूछना चाहता हूं कि लकड़ी का दाम क्यों बढ़ा है, जबकि लकड़ी पर तो एसेंसियल कॉमोडिटीज एक्ट नहीं है? आज स्थिति यह है कि आम आदमी न रोटी खा सकता है, न कपड़ा पहन सकता है और न मकान बना सकता है। महोदय, हर आदमी का एक ही सपना होता है-रोटी, कपड़ा और मकान। मैं कहना चाहता हूं कि यह कांग्रेस सरकार आम आदमी को, आम किसान को, आम मजदूर को, आम नौजवान, छात्र, महिलाओं, अध्यापकों और वकीलों को रोटी, कपड़ा और मकान देने में असफल रही है। इसलिए इस सरकार को अपनी कुर्सी पर बने रहने का अधिकार नहीं है। अब चूंकि हम सरकार को समर्थन दे रहे है, इसलिए मैं केन्द्र सरकार से गुजारिश करना चाहता हूं कि आप महंगाई को रोकने का जो भी प्रयास हो सकता है करें। आप सारे दलों के नेताओं को बुलाकर डिबेट कीजिए, डिस्कसन कीजिए और इस महंगाई को रोकने का प्रयास कीजिए।

मुझे पूरा विश्वास है कि हमारे कृषि मंत्री जी और हमारे विद्वान वित्त मंत्री जी इस महंगाई को रोकने का प्रयास जरूर करेंगे ताकि हम करोड़ों-करोड़ जनता को यह एहसास दिला सकें कि यह सरकार उन के हित में अच्छा काम कर रही है। आपने बोलने का समय दिया, इसलिए आप को बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद।

SHRI P.G. NARAYANAN (Tamil Nadu): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, the prices of essential commodities have been rising ever since this Government assumed office. Sir, diesel and petrol prices were revised upwards at least six times since this UPA Government came into office. Sir, this move has had a cascading effect on prices of essential

commodities. Sir, I have warned the Government nearly two months ago how common man's food, idli has become beyond the reach of the common man as urad dal price has gone up. Sir, our Finance Minister has made a big announcement in the last Budget amidst thumping of desks by Members that he is reducing the duty of idli mix powder. Thanks to the present policy of the Government Now, the cost of making one idli has shout up to more than Rs. five as the price of urad dal has gone up to Rs. 60 a kilo from Rs. 30 two months back. But the Finance Minister is keeping mum. He is not acting in the interest of the common man. Sir, the prices of all varieties of pulses have gone up substantially during the last three months in spite of feeble attempts made by both Finance and Agricultural Ministries to control the situation. The prices of edible oils, especially, gingili oil has also gone up. Sir, I would also draw the attention of the House to the lack of sensitivity in the Government when the prices of pulses like urad dal and edible oils went up. When the prices of wheat went up a few months ago, the Government acted immediately and organised import of wheat. The same sensitivity is not shown when the prices of Urad Dal or Gingili oil have gone up. It is because these food products are consumed by people living in the Southern India. In fact, when I raised the issue of rise in prices of Urad Dal in the House two months ago, the Government did not act. I am told that some outlets in Delhi were selling Dal at a subsidised rate. The Government should realise that Delhi alone is not India. For 90 per cent of the people living in four Southern States, Urad Dal is a very important food item. It is time that the Government should be sensitive to the rise in prices of food commodities used by people in various parts of the country.

Sir, petroleum prices have gone up. It has made travelling in auto rickshaws in cities like Chennai very costly. After the recent hike in petrol price, an auto rickshaw in Chennai and in other parts of Tamil Nadu charge, at least, Rs. 15 per km.

This Government introduced CNG in Delhi. So, auto rickshaw fares in Delhi did not go up substantially. What prevents this Government from introducing CNG in other metropolitan cities and towns in Southern India which contributes substantially and saves precious foreign exchange? I would, again, urge the Government to look beyond Delhi and introduce CNG in all metropolitan towns, besides Bangalore and Hyderabad.

[THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI) in the Chair]

This Government is interested only in stepping up infrastructure in Delhi alone. I am told that some Rs. 10,000 crores is going to be invested in Delhi for toning up of infrastructure to conduct the Commonwealth Games. What prevents this Government from holding games in various cities of the country so that infrastructure in other parts of towns can also improve? I don't grudge investment in Delhi. But, it should not be at the cost of neglecting other cities. I wish to tell the Government that the recent Football World Cup in Germany was conducted in as many as six towns of Germany. If Germany could do so, why not India? So, it is time for the Government to move away from Delhi-centric policies and take steps to improve infrastructure in other cities also. I demand the Centre, especially the Petroleum Ministry, to implement the CNG in Chennai, Madurai and Coimbatore so that the cost of transportation comes down substantially, besides improving the environment in those cities.

Then, Sir, it is a mystery, when the prices of essential commodities are skyrocketing, the hon. Finance Minister claims that the inflation is coming down! I suspect that indices that calculate inflation are manipulated. I, therefore, demand that a Parliamentary committee be set up to investigate how inflation rates are calculated and recommend steps to prevent a possible manipulation of inflations figures. Though our hon. Finance Minister claims inflation rate has come down, people don't believe him. So, I would urge the Government not to hike, at least, the prices of cooking gas and kerosene as this move would seriously affect the common man. Thank you.

श्री मंगनी लाल मंडल (बिहार): उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, कई माननीय सदस्यों ने देश में जो महंगाई की स्थिति है, उसके बारे में अपनी बातें इस माननीय सदन में रखी हैं और चिंता भी व्यक्त की है। यह बात सही है कि देश में महंगाई को लेकर एक बड़ा आक्रोश लोगों में है और इस भारी रोष के साथ-साथ, इस आक्रोश के साथ-साथ हर सेक्शन के लोगों में एक गंभीर चिंता है।

महोदय, खाद्यान्न की जितनी सामग्रियां हैं, उनसे आम जनता ज्यादा प्रभावित होती है, महंगाई तो अन्य चीजों के बारे में भी है। अभी यहां सट्टेबाजी की चर्चा हुई। सट्टेबाज पहले सोने और चांदी में ज्यादा सट्टे बाजी करते थे और एक आंकलन के अनुसार इस सोने और चांदी का 50 हजार करोड़ रुपया इस देश से बाहर चला गया है। आम जनता का सोने और चांदी से उतना ज्यादा वास्ता नहीं है, जितना खाद्य-सामग्रियों से है और खाद्य-सामग्रियों के मामले में, संशोधित आवश्यक वस्तु अधिनियम के बारे में शरद जी ने अपनी भूल आज स्वीकार की है। जमाखोरी इस महंगाई का सबसे

बड़ा कारण है। मांग और आपूर्ति के संतुलन के बारे में आम सिद्धांत यह है कि हम यह देखें कि जितनी मांग है, उतनी आपूर्ति है या नहीं है और जितना उत्पादन होता है, खपत के मुकाबले में उसमें कितनी कमी है। उस कमी की पूर्ति के लिए सिर्फ एफसीआई या दूसरी एजेन्सी संग्रह करके रख ले, तो इससे महंगाई पर काबू नहीं पाया जा सकता है। अब इसमें भी बहुराष्ट्रीय कंपनियों ने सट्टेबाजी शुरू की है। बहुराष्ट्रीय कंपनियों की प्रोक्योरमेंट करने की दो लाख टन की सीमा थी, लेकिन उस सीमा से कितना ज्यादा उन्होंने संग्रह किया, इसका कोई हिसाब सरकार के पास नहीं है। खाद्यान्न जमा किया गया, अब किसान को कितना मूल्य मिला, वह अलग बात है, लेकिन देश में इस तरह खाद्यान्न की बहुराष्ट्रीय और निजी कम्पनियों के द्वारा संग्रह हो रहा है। यह जो जमाखोरी है, यह महंगाई का सबसे बड़ा कारण है।

महोदय, एक चर्चा हुई फॉरवर्ड ट्रेडिंग की, वायदा-कारोबार की, यह दूसरा सबसे बड़ा कारण महंगाई का है। इस पर अगर प्रतिबंध नहीं लगेगा, तो जितनी कमोडिटीज हैं, चाहे दाले हों, चाहे तिलहन हों, चाहे सब्जियां हों, चाहे सोना या चांदी हो, चाहे अनाज हो, खाद्यान्न के दूसरे सामान हों, इनके दाम बराबर वायदा-कारोबार से ज्यादा बढ़ते हैं। इस देश में जो जमाखोरी और कालाबाजारी हो रही है, सरकार को इस पर प्रतिबंध लगाना चाहिए और इसे रोकना चाहिए।

महोदय, देश में हो रही आत्मा-हत्याओं के बारे में हम सब चिंतित हैं और सदन में बराबर इस पर चर्चा होती है। सदन ने इस पर चिंता भी व्यक्त की है। अभी विश्व बैंक के हवाले से एक रिपोर्ट आई है, जिसमें कहा गया है कि परचेजिंग पावर केपेसिटी के मामले में विश्व में हिंदुस्तान का चौथा स्थान है और भारत अमेरिका, चीन और जापान के बाद चौथे नम्बर पर आता है। हम महाशक्ति बनते जा रहे हैं, ऐसा हम कहते हैं, ढिंढोरा पीटते हैं, लेकिन देश में जो गरीब तबके के लोग हैं, जिनकी मजदूरी ज्यादा नहीं है, जो सौ रुपया प्रतिदिन भी नहीं कमाते हैं, उनकी स्थिति को भी हमें देखना चाहिए। अभी देश में रोजगार गारंटी योजना पर बड़ी चर्चा हो रही है और इस रोजगार गारंटी योजना के साथ यह भी चर्चा हो रही है कि 60/- रुपए प्रतिदिन मजदूरी दी जाय या 60/- रुपए प्रतिदिन से कम दी जाए। अगर हम 60/- रुपए के स्थान पर 100/- रुपए भी मान लें, तो भी गरीबों की दाल और रोटी के दाम, सब्जी के दाम बेतहाशा बढ़ रहे हैं। एक आंकड़ा आया है कि वर्ष 1960 में दाल की खपत प्रति व्यक्ति जितनी थी, वह वर्ष 1980 में उससे कम हो गई और 1980 में दाल की खपत प्रति व्यक्ति जितनी थी, वह 1990 में और उसके बाद क्रमशः कम होती गई। आज दाल की खपत सबसे कम हो गई है, क्योंकि दाल, जिसके बारे में कहा जाता है कि उसमें प्रोटीन सबसे ज्यादा होता है, वह दाल खरीदना गरीब के बस के बाहर की चीज हो गई है। इसलिए यह बहुत चिंता की बात है कि खाद्य सुरक्षा पर सबसे बड़ा संकट आज देश में पैदा हो गया है। आम तौर पर 720 लाख टन गेंहू का उत्पादन होता है, जबकि 750 लाख टन की मांग है और यह ठीक है कि यह जो 30 लाख टन की कमी है, और इस कमी को हम आयात करके पूरा करेंगे। लेकिन देश में जो

उत्पादन होता है और जो क्रय करने की छूट दी गई है, उस बारे में कहा गया है कि FCI के मुकाबले में बहुराष्ट्रीय कम्पनियों और दूसरे व्यापारियों ने ज्यादा खरीद की है। इस बारे में कहना चाहता हूं कि FCI के क्रय करने की और बहुराष्ट्रीय कम्पनियों के क्रय करने की विधि के अंतर को हमें देखना होगा। FCI वाले कहते हैं कि हमारे केन्द्र पर खाद्यान्न या अनाज लाओ और किसान जब खाद्यान्न या अनाज लेकर उनके केन्द्र पर जाता है तो FCI वाले उसकी गुणवत्ता के बारे में प्रश्न उठाते हैं, नतीजन किसान खाद्यान्न के साथ लौट आता है, जबकि बहुराष्ट्रीय कम्पनियां और जो दूसरे निजी कारोबारी या व्यापारी हैं, वे उनके दरवाजे पर क्रय करने के लिए जाते हैं। अब यह ठीक है कि उनको मूल्य ज्यादा नहीं मिलता, लेकिन वे गुणवत्ता, अनाज की क्वालिटी आदि के बारे में प्रश्न नहीं उठाते और किसान के दरवाजे पर ही वे खाद्यान्न खरीदते हैं। इसलिए मैं मांग करुंगा कि FCI की खरीदने की जो प्रवृत्ति है, जो मेथड है, जो तरीका है -- किसान को परेशान करने का, उस मेथड में परिवर्तन होना चाहिए और यह प्रयास किया जाना चाहिए कि ज्यादा से ज्यादा क्रय केन्द्र किसान के गांव तक पहुंचें, ताकि किसान उन्मुक्त होकर FCI को खाद्यान्न दे सकें। यह भी हमारी मांग है।

दूसरी हमारी मांग यह है, शदर यादव जी तो चले गए, उन्होंने माना, भारतीय जनता पार्टी के लोगों ने कोई चर्चा नहीं की, जो असेंशियल कमोडिटीज़ एक्ट है, जिसमें फरवरी, 2002 में उन्होंने संशोधन किया था। अब जब परिवर्तन हुआ तो देश के कुछ मुख्य मंत्रियों ने, जैसी कि मुझे जानकारी है कि कांग्रेस के कुछ मुख्य मंत्रियों ने कहा है कि इसकी समीक्षा होनी चाहिए, लेकिन भारतीय जनता पार्टी या समाजवादी पार्टी ने अपनी बात कह दी कि इसकी समीक्षा नहीं होनी चाहिए। मैं गांव से आया राजनीतिक कार्यकर्ता हूं और कहना चाहता हूं कि असेंशियल कमोडिटीज़ एक्ट के रहते ही जमाखोरी कम होती थी, क्योंकि दहशत का एक वातावरण रहता था कि जमाखोरी करने पर जेल जाना होगा और जमानत भी जल्दी नहीं मिलेगी, इसीलिए असेंशियल कमोडिटीज़ एक्ट में जो तरमीम की गई है, यह इसके दूरुपयोग का एक सबसे बड़ा कारण है। इसलिए मैं अनुरोध करना चाहूंगा कि असेंशियल कमोडिटीज़ एक्ट में जो तरमीम की गई है, संशोधन किया गया है, उसके बजाए उसका जो मूल स्वरूप है, उसको बहाल करने पर सरकार को विचार करना चाहिए और केवल विचार ही नहीं करना चाहिए, बल्कि उसको और मजबूत करना चाहिए, यह मेरा अनुरोध है।

एक बात और मैं कहना चाहूंगा कि महंगाई का जो सी॰पी॰आई॰ और आई॰ डब्ल्यू॰ है, जो उपभोक्ता मूल्य सूचकांक है, इससे महंगाई के बारे में स्पष्ट जानकारी नहीं मिलती है और सरकार ने कहा है कि इसमें मुद्रा स्फीति का थोड़ा रोल 5 प्रतिशत से ज्यादा नहीं होगा, लेकिन पिछले 7 महीनों में जो मुद्रा स्फीति थी, महंगाई उससे ज्यादा हुई है। यह जो मूल्य सूचकांक है, CPIIW है, इसकी एक समीक्षा होनी चाहिए, क्योंकि महंगाई का क्या ट्रेंड है, उसको ट्रेस करने के लिए यह सही

मेथड नहीं है। 1978 में, जहां तक मुझको जानकारी है, एक रिव्यू कमेटी बनी थी, समीक्षा हुई थी और समीक्षा करके जो अनुशंसाएं की गई थीं, आज तक उनको लागू नहीं किया गया। इसलिए हमारी मांग है कि जो CPIIW है, उसके स्थान पर एक समीक्षा समिति बने, जो इस बात की समीक्षा करे कि उसको कैसे लागू किया जाए, वह ठीक है या नहीं, या इसको समाप्त कर दिया जाए या यह एक आधार माना जाए या नहीं।

इन्हीं बातों के साथ, एक बात और कह कर मैं अपनी बात समाप्त करुंगा कि सरकार ने महंगाई रोकने के लिए कार्रवाई की हैं और सरकार चिंतित है, सरकार प्रयत्नशील है। महंगाई को लेकर जो सदन में बातें हुई हैं, उनमें बहुत सारे लोगों ने राजनीति भी की है, राजनीति नहीं की जानी चाहिए थी। सरकार ने एक मंशा व्यक्त की थी कि राजकोषीय और मौद्रिक अनुशासन को हम कायम करेंगे अनुशासन के लिए। दूसरा संकल्प सरकार ने किया था कि गरीब व्यक्तियों पर भार हल्का करने के लिए उत्पाद शुल्क और आयात शुल्क का युक्तिकरण करेंगे। तीसरा, सरकार ने यह संकल्प भी किया था कि गेहूं और चावल के लिए लक्षित सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली के अन्तर्गत केन्द्रीय निर्गम मूल्यों का स्थिरिकरण करेंगे और चौथा संकल्प जो सरकार ने किया था कि दक्षिण क्षेत्र में आपूर्ति वर्द्धन करने के लिए गेहूं का आयात करेंगे, वह सरकार ने किया है। पांचवां संकल्प था कि आवश्यक वस्तुओं के खुदरा व थोक मूल्यों का नियमित अनवेक्षण करेंगे। लेकिन इन संकल्पों के बावजूद भी महंगाई रुकी नहीं, बल्कि उल्टे महंगाई बढ़ रही है। इसके लिए सरकार को कोई ठोस कार्यवाही करनी चाहिए और जो जमाखोर है, जो सट्टाबाज़ हैं, जो काला बाज़ारी करते हैं, उनके खिलाफ सख्त कार्यवाही की जानी चाहिए, इन्हीं बातों के साथ मैं अपनी बात समाप्त करता हूं।

श्री रामदास अग्रवाल: उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, इससे पहले कि मैं इस विषय पर चर्चा करूं, I would like to just remind the hon. Finance Minister that I met him about one month ago, and I told him that the price rise is because of forward trading. He was quite reasonable to say that it is not concerned to my Ministry; it would be better if you approach the Ministry of Agriculture. सर, आज भी कृषि मंत्री जी यहां मौजूद नहीं है और हम अपनी चर्चा केवल फॉरवर्ड ट्रेडिंग पर ही केन्द्रित कर रहे हैं कि सारी बीमारी का इलाज ही फॉरवर्ड ट्रेडिंग को बंद करना है। मैं इस विषय पर दोबारा आऊंगा, उससे पहले कुछ बातें हमारे माननीय सांसदों ने कही और खास तौर से वृन्दा जी ने कही, मैं उनके संबंध में कुछ कहना चाहूंगा। मैं जब उन्हें बोलते हुए देखता हूं तो बहुत अच्छा लगता है और जब वह गुस्से में बोलती हैं तो ओर भी अच्छा लगता है, लेकिन गुस्से में वह केवल हमारी तरफ देखती हैं। वह आंखें लाल करके हमारी तरफ देखती हैं, मैं उनसे कहना चाहता हूं कि हम तो सत्ता में नहीं हैं। अगर आंखें लाल करनी ही हैं तो जरा उनकी तरफ करिए, एक ही दिन में सब ठीक हो

जाएगा। लेकिन आप हमारी तरफ आंखें लाल करके देखती हैं, हमारी समझ में यह नहीं आता कि क्यों? हमने तो आपका कुछ भी नहीं बिगाड़ा है। हमारे पूर्व प्रधान मंत्री जी ने तो यह कहा है कि कम्युनिस्टों से कुछ सीखो, लेकिन आपने उसको कोट किया हम आपसे राज्य करना नहीं सीखना चाह रहे हैं, हमें तो यह सीखने के लिए कहा गया था कि आप बार-बार कैसे सत्ता में आ रहे हैं। इसके लिए आप क्या मैनिपुलेशन करते हैं और आपके पास उसकी क्या तरकीब है ...(व्यवधान)

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Sir ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Objection, Sir ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI): I will handle it ...*(Interruptions)*... Let me handle it.

श्रीमती वृंदा कारत: सर यह जो बोल रहे हैं, उसे बोलने की तो कोई जरूरत ही नहीं है। आप सोचें तो सही कि आप क्या बोल रहे हैं। अगर दोस्त भी ऐसे बोलेंगे तो दुश्मन की क्या जरूरत है ... (व्यवधान)।

श्री रामदास अग्रवाल: सर, इसमें तो नाराज़ होने की जरूरत नहीं है।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI): Agarwalji, kindly stick to the subject.

SHRI MATILAL SARKAR (Tripura): He has nothing to say on the subject; that is why he is ...*(Interruptions)*...

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री दिनेश त्रिवेदी): आपके पास समय बहुत कम है और मैं आपको अधिक समय भी नहीं दूंगा। मेहरबानी करके आप अपने सब्जेक्ट पर ही बोलिए, kindly speak on the subject.

श्री रामदास अग्रवाल: सर, मेरी पार्टी की तरफ से इस मामले में मैं आखरी वक्ता हूं ... (व्यवधान)... मैं इनकी बात का जवाब इसलिए देना चाहूंगा क्योंकि इन्होंने स्वयं यह बात कही थी, अन्यथा मैं नहीं कहता। मुझे उनसे कुछ सीखने का कोई शौक नहीं है, लेकिन चूंकि उन्होंने यह कहा, इसलिए मुझे उनकी बात का जवाब देना पड़ रहा है कि हमें आपसे शासन करना नहीं सीखना है, बल्कि शासन में वापस आने की तरकीब सीखनी है और कभी मैं सीखने के लिए आऊंगा भी।

महोदय मेरी समझ में एक बात नहीं आती कि कुछ तथ्यों को तोड़-मरोड़ कर पेश किया जाता है। एनडीए के समय के कुछ तथ्य मैं अपने सभी मित्रों को बताना चाहता हूं। हमारे यहां के इन्फ्लेशन रेट के बारे में मैं आपको तथ्यों के साथ बता सकता हूं कि 1998 से लेकर 2004 तक हम सत्ता में थे ...। उस समय इंफलेशन रेट इनको याद होगा, 47 परसेंट था और एक बार तो यह दो

परसेंट तक गया था। लेकिन कहा यह जा रहा है कि हमारे टाइम पर महंगाई बढ़ी थी। मैं आपको गिनाना चाहता हूं कि हमारे वित्त मंत्री महोदय ने मेरे क्वेश्चन संख्या 547 का 23 मई को जवाब दिया था। उसमें आपने स्वीकार किया है कि इस समय जो होलसेल प्राइस इंडेक्स है उसमें वृद्धि इस प्रकार हुई है, मैं आपके सामने केवल कुछ फैक्ट्स एंड फिगर्स, जो आपने दिए हैं, वह रिपीट करना चाहता हूं। वह इसलिए कि आप यहां कितनी बहस करते हैं, उससे लाभ नहीं होने वाला, आप यहां से कितना संदेश देते हैं, उससे लाभ नहीं होगा। हम कितने आंसू बहा लें, हम कितनी छाती पीट लें, लेकिन यदि हम आम आदमी तक प्राइस कम करने का संदेश नहीं भेज सकते या रिएलिटी में प्राइस कम नहीं कर सकते तो यह बहस केवल हमारी मेंटल एक्सरसाइज साबित होगी। वास्तव में गरीब आदमी को तब भी कुछ नहीं मिल पाएगा। मैं यह बात इसलिए कहना चाहता हूं कि प्राइस राइज़ का इश्यू, हम कोई आज यहां डिस्कस कर रहे हों, ऐसी बात नहीं है। पिछले तीन महीने से लगातार, जो पिछला सेशन था उसके बाद से लेकर के अभी तक मीडिया ने, संसद ने, सब पार्टियों ने यहां तक स्वयं यू॰पी॰ए॰ की चेयरमेन महोदया और हमारे प्रधान मंत्री महोदय, वित्त मंत्री महोदय इन सब ने खूब चिंता व्यक्त की है कि प्राइस राइज़ हुआ है, इन्होंने स्वीकार किया है और उस स्वीकृति का प्रमाण मैं यह देना चाहता हूं कि आपने खुद जो फैक्ट्स एंड फिगर्स दिए हैं वे इस प्रकार से हैं। आटा में 8 परसेंट बढ़ोत्तरी हुई है। व्हीट में 9.9 परसेंट बढ़ोत्तरी हुई है। फिश, इसमें 27 परसेंट की बढ़ोत्तरी हुई है। ग्राम में 42 परसेंट की बढ़ोत्तरी हुई है। मूंग में 56 परसेंट की बढ़ोत्तरी हुई है। ... (समय की घंटी)....

उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, घंटी बजाने से काम नहीं चलेगा। ...(व्यवधान)

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री दिनेश त्रिवेदी): आपकी पार्टी का समय समाप्त हो गया है तथा और काफी स्पीकर हैं। हम लाचार हैं। आपकी पार्टी का समय 30 मिनट था। वेंकैया जी ने 35 मिनट बोला।

श्री रामदास अग्रवाल: उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं किसी और विषय पर बात नहीं कर रहा हूं, मैं केवल इस तथ्य को बताना चाहता हूं कि स्वयं वित्त मंत्री जी, स्वयं प्रधान मंत्री जी, इन्होंने सब ने यह स्वीकार किया है कि प्राइस राइज़ हुआ है, हो रहा है, मैं 23 मई की बात कर रहा हूं। आज दो महीने हो गए। दो महीने के अंदर इस सरकार ने, इन सारी चीजों को स्वीकार करने के बावजूद कि हमारे यहां पर कीमतें बढ़ी हैं, आम आदमी की तकलीफें बढ़ी हैं, आम आदमी परेशान है, बेहाल है, लेकिन फिर भी क्या कदम उठाए, कौन से कदम उठाए गए, जिसके द्वारा बाजारों में दाम कम हुए, कौन सी चीज के दाम कम हुए? आप अगर इस सदन को यह बताएंगे तब तो वास्तव में एक मैसेज जाएगा कि हां, गरीबों का साथ देने वाली सरकार ने कहीं पर कोई दाम गिराए और केवल हम बहस करके आम आदमी को संतुष्ट नहीं कर सकेंगे। शरद यादव जी ने ठीक कहा था कि आम आदमी जब करवट बदल लेता है, नाराज हो जाता है तो बहुत सी सत्ताओं को उखाड़ कर फैंक देता

है। पहले आपकी सत्ताओं को उखाड़ कर फैंका था, हमारी सत्ता को भी उखाड़ कर फैंका था, यह सत्ता परमानेंट नहीं है, यह आदमी, आम आदमी यह परमानेंट है। अगर उसको वास्तव में आप राहत देना चाहते हैं तो फिर आपको यह प्रयास करना पड़ेगा, दिखाना पड़ेगा कि धरातल पर आप वास्तव में प्राइसेज को गिराने के लिए किस प्रकार से कदम उठा रहे हैं।

उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं आखिरी बिन्दु कहना चाहता हूं, केवल समय की बात आप करेंगे। लेकिन मैं एक बात और कहना चाहता हूं, शायद आप भी इंटरेस्टेड होंगे इस बात को जानने में कि हमारी सरकार के सामने अनेक समयों पर यह बात कही गई है कि प्राइसेज़ बढ़ रही हैं और कितनी बढ़ रही हैं, केवल हमारे मंत्री या बाकी लोग यह कह दें कि हां, कुछ बढ़ी हैं, हम उसकी कोशिश कर रहे हैं, यह सारे के सारे काम जो आप करना चाहते हैं जैसा मैंने पहले कहा कि आम आदमी को राहत नहीं मिलेगी, आम आदमी को केवल आटा चाहिए, उसको दाल चाहिए, उसको प्याज चाहिए, उसको आलू चाहिए, उसको खाने पीने के लिए तेल चाहिए और अगर वह गांव में रहता है तथा पम्प चलाता है तो उसको डीजल सस्ता चाहिए। इन चीजों के अलावा आप दुनिया भर में स्टील के दाम बढ़ गए, सीमेंट के दाम बढ़ गए, उससे हमारे देश के 60 करोड़, 70 करोड़ लोगों को कोई लेना-देना नहीं है। आप उसका इन्फ्लेशन रेट, आप किसी तरह से कलकुलेट करते चले जाइये कि यह पांच परसेंट है, चार परसेंट है, आम आदमी को इससे कोई मतलब नहीं है। आपका इन्फ्लेशन रेट क्या होता है, यह केवल फिगर्स को इधर से उधर करने वाला काम है, हर सरकार करती रही है, लेकिन आम आदमी को मतलब है कि उसके आटे का दाम कितना बढ़ा, उसकी दाल का दाम कितना बढ़ा, उसका गेहूं कितना महंगा हो गया, उसका चावल कितना महंगा हो गया और अगर किसी भी सरकार में सैंसेविटी है, संवेदनशीलता है, तो इन चीजों पर बहस करने की आवश्यकता है। हम पेट्रोल की कीमतों की बात करते हैं, पेट्रोल की कीमत सब बढ़ाते रहे, हम भी बढ़ाते रहे, अब आप भी अगर सरकार में आयेंगी, तब आपको भी बढ़ाना होगा। यह सरकार बढ़ा रही है, बढ़ाना पड़ रहा है, यह एक फैक्ट है दुनिया में। लेकिन केवल पेट्रोल, डीजल के दामों से गेहूं का दाम क्यों बढ़ गया, दाल का दाम क्यों बढ़ गया और बाकी चीजों के दाम क्यों बढ़ गये? क्या इसके लिए पेट्रोल ही रेसपांसेबिल है? क्या फारवर्ड ट्रेडिंग मात्र रेसपांसेबिल है?

Yes, we have introduced this law. हमने उस समय कभी भी इस बात की चिंता नहीं की थी, क्यों कारण था कि उस समय हमारे पास 64.7 मिलियन टन्स का buffer stock था, हमने एक करोड़ 20 लाख टन अनाज लोगों को फूड फार वर्क के लिए बांटा था, हमने 22 लाख टन अनाज लोगों को फ्री दिया था, जब ड्राउट पड़ा था, जब फ्लड आया था, हमने दिया था, हमारे पास sufficient stocks थे, इसलिए हमने वह ट्रेडिंग शुरू की थी, लेकिन हमारे टाइम पर उस ट्रेडिंग के समय हमने दाम नहीं बढ़ने दिये। वित्त मंत्री महोदय, अगर आपको लगता था या इस सरकार को या इस सरकार के समर्थकों को, तो आप जिस दिन सत्ता में आए, उसी दिन आप इस कानून में

परिवर्तन कर सकते थे। आप इस पर कोई restricition ला सकते थे, regulation ला सकते थे। आप यह मांग कर सकते थे, लेकिन आप ढाई साल बाद मांग कर रहे हैं, इसका क्या मतलब है? 'जब चिड़िया चुग गई खेत' उसके बाद बात करने से क्या मतलब है? अगर आपको मांग करनी थी तो ऐसे समय करनी थी जब प्राइसेस नहीं बढ़े थे। अब जब बढ़ चुके हैं तो फिर आप NDA पर आरोप लगा रहे हैं, आप हमारे ऊपर लगा लीजिए क्या दाम घट जाएंगे? आप आरोप लगा लीजिए पैट्रोलियम मिनिस्टर पर, तो क्या दाम घट जाएंगे? हमारे सामने यह सवाल है कि अगर आप आम आदमी की बात सोचना चाहते हैं, तो मैं सदन से अपील करना चाहूंगा कि आम आदमी को राहत देने के लिए सदन में वित्त मंत्री, प्रधान मंत्री सभी को यह घोषणा करनी चाहिए कि वे कल की तारीख के बाद से इन-इन चीजों के ये दाम फिक्स-अप करते हैं। अगर उससे ऊपर कोई बेचता है, चाहे वह छोटा व्यापारी हो, चाहे बडा व्यापारी हो चाहे मल्टीनेशनल हो या कोई corporate sector का व्यक्ति हो, उसको उठाकर बंद कर दिया जाएगा, तब कुछ बात होगी। हम केवल आरोप-प्रत्यारोप से बाजार भाव से बाजार भाव घटाना चाहते हैं,यह संभव नहीं है, यह असंभव बात है। इसके लिए ठोस कदम उठाने के लिए, मैं वित्त मंत्री जी से यह मांग करना चाहता हूं कि आप केवल अपना ceremonial भाषण मत दीजिए, आप हमें तथ्यों के जाल में मत फंसाइए, आप सही रूप में आम जनता की आवश्यक वस्तुओं की कीमतों को गिराने के लिए क्या ठोस कदम उठाने वाले हैं, इसकी जानकारी सदन को दीजिए। केवल ceremonial भाषण से दाम नहीं घटेंगे, ऐसा मेरा कहना है।

SHRI ARJUN KUMAR SENGUPTA (West Bengal): This is a very serious situation that we are facing, and I appeal to everybody here that the problem is not a political problem, or a party's political problem. Nothing is totally non-political. But we have to consider the full implications of the policy decision that you are going to take and whether it is possible to meet the requirements of this situation. Why is this a very difficult position now? It is because this country is now growing at a very rapid rate. It is growing at eight per cent. It has very little inflation by the way; if you talk about the rate of inflation in terms of general commodity prices, it is really low. There are other fiscal issues where the Government is doing extremely well. But, in spite of that, there is no doubt that there is a substantially rising price situation of the essential commodities. In fact, the primary products, which are covered by items like wheat, pulses, potatoes, spices, tea and coffee. The rate of increase of prices there has been almost more than double in the last few months. Now, it is impossible for a Government, which has come on the promise that they would look after the *Aam Janata,* to accept the situation. I must say that all of us, I am quite sure even

Members of the Opposition Party, must have been very impressed by the fact that the Congress Working Committee met and told its own Government, 'be careful, look after the problems of *Aam Janata*, you must do something to reduce the price rise of the essential commodities.' I think this is the major signal that has been given and having secured that it is necessary for the Government to think what are the ways that this price increase can be controlled. I must admit that I was listening to my friend, Brinda Karat*ji*, with great attention and I have very great sympathies for her except I have a lingering doubt about the solutions that they are providing. I am not talking about Shri Venkaiah Naidu's speech which I can talk about at length, if necessary, but I do not have so much time. But the suggestions that came from Brinda Karat*ji* are a bit unworkable in the present situation, because the problem here is that whatever policies that we take must not create a situation that the farmers' incentives are jeopardised. We, have tried long back trying to have physical control, restraints on trade in essential commodities, banning forward trading etc. They do not work for the very simple reason that when the market system has been unleashed your trying to impose this kind of artificial restrictions does not help. In fact, I must admit that when Sharad Yadav*ji* - he has left - said that his bureaucrats told him that forward trading would benefit the farmers, he fell victim to that. Now he regrets. But he should not. It is a fact that forward trading does help the farmers. But the issue is ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: This is a policy matter. I want to say something ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI): Are you yielding?

SHRI ARJUN KUMAR SENGUPTA: Yes.

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Dr. Sengupta has asserted that farmers have benefited due to future trading. He is such an eminent economist that we would be very happy to learn, what's the evidence, can be show in which State which farmers have been benefited and how much they have been benefited.

SHRI ARJUN KUMAR SENGUPTA: I could get into that question but the problem here is.....Let me put it to you very clearly that there are poor farmers, marginal farmers, large farmers and farmers of different size. In fact, since she mentioned this, it so happens in our country, the farmers

who have surplus to trade are usually larger farmers. Small farmers do trade a small amount, but larger farmers do trade and they benefit from this and forward trading has a tendency to stabilize the prices of today with tomorrow and, in general, this has a tremendous incentive for the farmers who are expecting a certain kind of price before they start sowing. This is the appropriate approach to this whole question of forward trading. But let us not get into that. I do not want to bring these issues now because that can be be leading to a separate discussion. My only problem is that we should try to look for solutions which are price-based and market-based and such solutions exist. I am not saying that you should not try other kinds of solutions when all the price-based solution do not work. But this Government has not tried all the price-based solutions. What I am trying to put forward to you, Mr. Vice-Chairman, is that let us take the simple recourse to PDS and imports. But even before that, I am coming to this question of Essential Commodities Act. Now, of the Essential Commodities Act, if the result of that is that farmer can trade anywhere in the country, it definitely improves the farmers' incentives. If a farmer producing in Punjab can sell the products in Kerala and has the ability to do that, or can sell it through the traders, it definitely helps him. It has an implication in terms of stocks and in normal operations, the farmer should be allowed to keep stocks. But, I would say that Essential Commodities Act might include a provision that in particular situations, you can do something about limiting the stocks; that you should not allow more than a particular quantity of stock. I am not saying that the Essential Commodities Act should not be altered, should not be amended. In fact, this particular point, that has been raised by the BJP Members, should be taken into account carefully. This Government can definitely bring in an amendment to the Essential Commodities Act. But, that, I would say, should be confined mostly to the control of stocks rater than control of the markets. The markets should be allowed to function as before. Now, what are the price-based solutions, and this is where I fully agree with Mrs. Brinda Karat. The price-based solution is Public Distribution System We have to put in the market as much additional supply of wheat as possible. It is not a fact that the production of wheat fell. In fact, last year, the production of wheat was more than that of the previous year. But, the fact of the matter is that the buffer stocks were very low. So, the traders expected that the price would go up and therefore, they started hoarding the stocks. In that situation, the policy of the Government should have been two-fold.

First, go for imports from the very beginning. In fact - Sharad Pawanji is not here - the first lot of imports of foodgrains we got at a very good price, but the Government purchased only a very small quantity. We did not proceed further into that import policy. When the domestic traders were expecting that the prices would go up, it is very difficult to believe that the Government did not realise that the prices were going to go up. And, the actual policy, especially when our Finance Minister has so much foreign exchange is to go for a whole-scale import of foodgrains in this country. Declare that we shall go for foodgrain imports. That itself should have been a signal to the hoarders that look, if you hoard too long, you will not be able to sell in the market; market will be flooded by the imported wheat. This first policy is to import. The second policy, and Mr. Vice-Chairman, through you, I would like to remind the Finance Minister that we had earlier a policy of procurement price and market price. I think, this point was made by a distinguished speaker earlier that the Food Corporation of India can be used as a major instrument. It is supposed to procure at a price which is just cost-plus. In other words, if the prices fall below that, the price support should be provided so that the farmers don't lose. The Government has played that role for many years, although the actual price that they debate. Although there are arguments that it is more than adequate, but there is a procurement price which can be considered to be all-India procurement price which you should follow. But, on top of this, FCI should be allowed to purchase from the market in order to replenish the buffer stocks. If this Government had sufficient buffer stock today, prices would not have increased. Why? (a) All the traders would understand that if they hoard for too long, they would not be able to make money; (b) We should be able to strengthen the Public Distribution System. Pathetically, for this Government, Public Distribution system instead of being expanded is being cut. Mrs. Brinda Karatji is absolutely right that the allocations to the Public Distribution System have been drastically cut. And, today, a single announcement either by the Finance Minister — I hope the Finance Minister is listening to me — or by the Agriculture Minister that we are now keeping the Public Distribution System completely open; we shall allow every State to use the Public Distribution System to flood the domestic market, that simple announcement will have a tremendous counter-effective measure, much more than all these physical restrictions on commodity exchange or Essential Commodities Act. Essential Commodities Act should be used only in exceptional

circumstances, when stocking is something that we have to limit, but otherwise we should allow this market solution to take place, and, I would request the Finance Minister to consider seriously today itself to make a declaration that we shall expand the PDS system throughout the country to the full extent possible.

Sir, I conclude by mentioning one point about petroleum prices. This point must be raised. Our country has a problem with petroleum prices because we import a lot of it, and, we depend on the imports, and, if the world prices go up, the prices of our imported petroleum must also go up. But it so happens, and, this is the point that I should bring to your notice that the fuel, power, light and lubricant prices have increased much less than last year, compared to the years of the BJP Government.

This Government has been able to control the prices of petroleum products. I would not have probably liked it. In fact, I think that petroleum is one of the products where prices should have been allowed to go up to reflect the market situation. People can afford to pay fuel prices for cars, for automobiles, for trucks and all these things. We should protect only very small fraction of consumers, like Mrs. Brinda Karat mentioned, of LPG or kerosene. Otherwise, the petroleum prices should follow the market prices; only then people would adjust. But we have not done that. We have controlled the petroleum prices, for whatever reasons, or the assumption that all petroleum prices are going to create problems for the *aam-aadmi* — I am afraid, they don't. Only increase in kerosene, LPG create problems for *aam-aadmi... (Interruptions)*. Diesel prices. Yes. This is a very good point that has been raised. What is happening is that when the price of diesel increases, the effect of that on essential commodities comes from transport costs. I would like to draw the attention of Mr. Venkaiah Naidu on this particular point. The price of a product reflects only a small fraction of transport costs; the transport cost is an element of the final price of less than'4 per cent, one per cent' or maximum of one and a half percent. *(Interruptions)*

श्री जयन्ती लाल बरोट: आप यह भी बोलिए कि स्टील का भाव बढ़ा है, सीमैंट का भाव बढ़ा है,. ...(**व्यवधान**)...

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री दिनेश त्रिवेदी) : आप जरा इनको बोलने दीजिए।...(**व्यवधान**)...

SHRI ARJUN KUMAR SENGUPTA: I am afraid, steel prices have no effect on wheat. And, if you are talking about the prices in general...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI): Dr. Sen Gupta, time allotted to you is already over. You have taken more than nine minutes. Because you are an eminent economist, I did not want to stop you. Kindly conclude.

SHRI ARJUN KUMAR SENGUPTA: Sir, I am responding to the point of diesel prices. The issue here is that the truck drivers, the transport workers raise their prices much more than what is warranted by the rise in prices of diesel.

[MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair.]

They increase the prices five times, six times, and, that is why the final commodity prices increase. Now, what is the policy that should be followed? Again, on the policy the Finance Minister has a role to play. He must find a method by which this kind of increase in costs, which are not due to the actual increase in costs, must be accepted as a part of profit. There should be a fiscal method by which this extra element of cost should be taxed.

I am just giving you an example of a situation where the price situation can be controlled within the parameters of the fiscal reform system that the Finance Minister has introduced. I am not talking about any physical methods. I am not talking about any derigiste method. The present reform policy of market-based reforms can be applied to control the price provided the Finance Minister is fully committed - and, I am sure he is - that come what may, we shall protect the *aam-admis* from the rising prices of essential commodities. Thank you very much.

SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, in every Session, this has become a ritual for us to debate on price rise and terrorism. So, today we are discussing price rise. In spite of the best debates that are taking place where we are allowed to demonstrate our oratorical skills, the Government is not at all initiating any measures over a period of time. Eminent persons are there in the Government. I respect our Finance Minister, the way he handles the things. But, when the common man's problems come, I request him to bestow more attention because you are more accountable to the major sections of the people than the interests of

the few privileged and those who have All are eminent persons. The Prime Minister is an eminent man. The Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission is an eminent man. The Finance Minister is an eminent man. But, price rise has become imminent. Why? What are the reasons? We are not going to achieve anything by bashing the NDA or the UPA. Let us come to the exact reasons why this inflation has gone up. The rate of inflation, which is being quoted in the paper, which is being told by the Government, I don't think that is relevant. That is not relevant when we see the living conditions of the common man, their standard of living and their incomes. A couple of days back I heard the Finance Minister saying 4.86 or something inflation is tolerable. Sir, it may be tolerable to you; it may be tolerable to me and to the rest of the Members of this august House. But, it is not at all tolerable to the common man, a major chunk of the population. We have to take into consideration the interests of those people. I can emphatically say that the food economy of this country has been totally mismanaged. Were you not aware that there are going to be shortages? Were you not aware what would be the actual production in the agriculture sector? And, were you not aware what would be the actual consumption of this country? Why have you not initiated the precautionary measures? What exactly are the reasons?

I am rather constraint to come to the conclusion that the food economy of this country has been totally mismanaged. It has got adverse effects on the people who have been suffering due to this high rate of inflation. At the same time, we have to compromise with the economic sovereignty of the country also. We will lose the self-sufficiency which we have been able to achieve by the Green Revolution. For the first time the food security is being threatened. You know what should be the buffer stock. You know what should be the food production. With all the satellite-based technology, you can easily assess what will the actual production of the country in advance, what is the requirement and whether to import or to export. In spite of that, why should there be any shortages? So, you should analyse what the reasons for inflation are. Is it cost driven? If it is cost driven, what are the reasons? Is it becuase of high rate of interest or high cost of raw materials or high cost of farming? So, these are all the reasons which you can easily analyse. Or, is it because of the shortages that are existing in this country? If there are such shortages, are they man-made or are they

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natural? How to overcome these shortages? So, really we have to go into the problem indepth. They, we have to make an attempt. We can't blame the external factors and say because crude prices have gone up, we are constrained to increase the prices. We can no longer give this reason. It is there. It is a universal phenomenon. People expect from you a better economic management. Just because the petroleum prices have been increased, we will also increase the prices. What is the advantage of getting you elected to power? Any common man can run the Government. Even an uneducated man can run the Government. Then this country need not be run by an eminent economist like Dr. Manmohan Singh. Let us not pass the buck. Let us own the responsibility. Today, in the morning, the Finance Minister has given the reply about the measures which have been initiated. Increase in the prices of food articles has largely been due to shortfall in domestic supplies, related to demand and hardening of international prices. Except crude, which are the international prices that have gone up? As far as my knowledge is concerned, nothing has gone up. Because you cannot control properly, today this Government has been sold out to the cartel of cement manufacturers. The price prevailing in the market is nowhere relevant to the cost of production of the cement in this country. Why are you not able to control it? Why has the Government become so weak? What I am trying to say is that there is power with the Government to contain the inflation. But it appears that you don't want to do this. You are simply banning export of pulses, sugar and regular monitoring of prices of essential commodities. These are all knee-jerk reactions. Nothing, but knee-jerk reactions. It would not pay.

Many speakers have been advising about the future commodity exchanges. Let us introspect. Let us see how it is functioning. Whether the purpose for which it has been created is being served or not. Whether the so-called big players in the market are taking advantage of it to the detriment of the common man's interest. It is high time you had an introspection. Have a review of the functioning of these commodity exchanges. As far as our party is concerned, we want this commodity transaction should be stopped immediately till we have a review of it and we come to a conclusion. If it serves the purpose for which it has been created, then we will allow it. Many thinkers, many leaders, and many political parties are of the opinion that this is one of the reasons. Why can't we have a review of its functioning? When we are unable to speculate

the stock market, how can we speculate the essential commodities market? Impossible. So, let us be practical.

The Government has become so insensitive that it has not convened the meeting of the State Chief Ministers. I am not questioning Mrs. Sonia Gandhi convening the meeting of the Congress Chief Ministers. It is a very good measure that she has initiated. But the Prime Minister, the head of the country, should have been more sensitive to the issue. He should have convened the meeting of the Chief Ministers of all the States. I read in the newspapers that prices were not rising in Andhra Pradesh, where till now 4000 people have committed suicides in a span of two years. The Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh has projected a very good picture and he has been applauded in the meeting. I read it in the papers.

Our Civil Supplies Minister says that NDA policies are responsible for this pice rise. I don't think so. I am rather impartial in my assessment. Their policies were more relevant, and they have taken such decisions that have paid dividends also. I am not saying this just to please them. How long can he indulge in bashing the NDA? Don't search for scapegoats; otherwise, you will become a sacrificial goat. And we wish you not to become a sacrificial goat. (*Time-bell*)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: What can I do? Your party strength has gone down. So, your time also goes down. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Sir, I will make some suggestions and I will conclude. I will go by substance.

Sir. inflation has to be contained not by a single Minister of the Cabinet. I fully sympathise with the Finance Minister. It is related to the Ministry of Civil Supplies. It is related to the Agricultural Ministry. And as far as the fiscal policies are concerned, the Finance ministry is related. That is what I will talk about. Kindly rationalise your tax structure and don't expect that India Inc. makes supper prifits. Absolutely, there is necessity to make profits, but not poverty conditions. I will never be happy by seeing the huge profits that are being made by the companies which are published by the newspapers. So, kindly rationalise it.

Now, about the crude prices. You have been advising the State Governments. First, you try to bring down the tax structure of the Governments when are under your party's control and then, you advise the

Governments which are being ruled by your allies for which you take the initiative. You try to rationalise your tax structure. Out of Rs. 1,28,600 crores, I was told Rs.78,800 crores are being mopped up by the Central Government in petroleum sector and Rs. 48,800 crores are the State revenues. Whenever you increase the price, because it is related to the percentages, your revenues are going up *ad valorem*. So, I request the Minister to try to rationalise the tax system and reduce it for some time and though it is not related, you have to increase the farm production and farm productivity. You have been claiming that farm credit has been increased. Sir, if you go to the village, the picture is entirely different. I heard the Finance Minister say that he will go to the rural banks in the areas to monitor whether they are actually fulfilling the commitments or not. I don't know to what extent these commitments are being fulfilled. Sir, minor and marginal farmers are unable to get credit as contemplated.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: At least, you fulfil your commitment and conclude.

SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Then, Sir, about the PDS. It is a commitment that that been made by the UPA that the UPA Government will strengthen the Public Distribution System, particularly in the poorest and backward blocks of the country. A major chunk of the population who have been classified as below poverty line has been removed from ration cards list, not by Mr. Chidambaram, but by many States. With the elections coming in Andhra pradesh, they have issued lakhs of cards, but without ration. Till today, no ration has been given. If I say anything, you will say that I am politicising. Madam Sonia Gandhi has personally visited Andhra Pradesh and Anantapur district. She shed tears over the suicides there and in the span of two years, four thousand people have committed suicides. (*Interruptions*) Sir, I am not yielding. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI K. KESHAVA RAO (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, I have been listening to all this ...(*Interruptions*) ... for half an hour. (*Interruptions*) .

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You can put forward those points when you speak. (*Interruptions*) He has not yielded. (*Interruptions*).

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: What is the word used?

SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: You cannot use the language according to your own tongue ...(*Interruptions*) .

SHRI K. KESHAVA RAO: You are accusing...(*Interruptions*) ...

SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: With your followers, you say anything! ...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: All right. Mr. Keshava Rao, please sit down ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Don't speak like this. I would remind you that you are in Rajya Sabha, the Upper House ...(*Interruptions*).

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Keshava Rao, please don't interrupt. ...(*Interruptions*).

SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: It is not your Gandhi Bhavan ...(*Interruptions*).

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Keshava Rao, please don't quote any names; ...(*Interruptions*). Mr. Keshava Rao, please sit down.

SHRI K. KESHAVA RAO: Sir, I am on a point of order.

SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Sir, I am not yielding.

SHRI K. KESHAVA RAO: Sir, I am on a point of order.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: What is the point order? ...(*Interruptions*).

SHRI K. KESHAVA RAO: Sir, my point of order is that during a discussion ...(*Interruptions*)... Sir, my point of order is: Can a member, during a discussion, mislead the house on figures? ...(*Interruptions*) ... It is 4000 against 3000 ...(*Interruptions*) ...I am not going to take longer time than is necessary, but I want to tell you that this cannot go on in a discussion like this. All right, once or twice, he can quote.

SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: What is this, Sir? ...(*Interruptions*) ...

SHRI K. KESHAVA RAO:*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no; please sit down ...(*Interruptions*) ... Mr. Keshava Rao, please sit down ...(*Interruptions*) ... Mr. Keshava Rao, please sit down ...(*Interruptions*)... Nothing will go on record. ...(*Interruptions*)... nothing will go on record.

SHRI K. KESHAVA RAO:

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please conclude,

MR. RAMACHANDRAIAH ...(*interruptions*)... Mr. Keshava Rao, please sit down ...(*interruptions*)...

*Not recorded.

SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Sir, my friend is yet to reconcile that he is in Rajya Sabha ...(*interruptions*)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Ramachandraiah, please conclude ...(*interruptions*)...Please conclude.

SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Don't record it.

SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:*

SHRI K. KESHAVA RAO: Sir, I stand up to know if any of the words has hurt him because I did not mean it. What I said was that is a rosy figure. I said, he quoted figures wrongly ...(*interruptions*)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Rao, the Government is there to take care of it. ...(*interruptions*)...You are a parliamentarian. ...(*interruptions*)... Please conclude, Mr. Ramchandraiah.

SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, he can quote names and addresses also.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no; we are not going into all those issues. We are not referring to Andhra Pradesh only...(*interruptions*)...

SHRI AMAR SINGH: Sir, is the discussion going to be confined to Andhra Pradesh only? It is happening in Maharashtra also. What about Maharashtra?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please sit down.

SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Sir, I will sit down, but I will not allow this kind of thing...(*interruptions*)...

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will you yield for a minute, Mr. Ramachandraiah?

SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: No, I am not yielding, please. I am not yielding. If anybody wants to draw the attention of your Madam, he should adopt some other method, not by interrupting us. ...(*interruptions*)...Not by interrupting us here ...(*interruptions*)...

*Not recorded.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. V. Narayanasamy, this is not a debate between two of your ...(*interruptions*)...

SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Sir, I am not yielding ...(*interruptions*)... I am not yielding.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Sir, when you allowed Mr. Ramachandraiah to speak, he was speaking. If he has used anything objectionable, the Member should take your permission. He did not take your permission. He starts making a commentary ...(*interruptions*)...When you get your chance, you can raise it ...(*interruptions*)...

SHRI AMAR SINGH: Let your Minister comment on it. What is the problem? ...(*interruptions*)...

SHRI K. KESHAVA RAO: We have a right to interrupt. ...(*interruptions*)...

SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Sir, there is a procedure. You have permitted him to speak.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Okey. Please Conclude, Mr. RAMACHANDRAIAH ...(*interruptions*)...

SHRI AMAR SINGH: Don't use your lungpower. We also have our lungpower.

श्री उपसभापति: अमर सिंह जी, आप बैठिए। ...(व्यवधान)...

SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no, no. These thing will not go on record ...(*interruptions*)... It will not go on record ...(*interruptions*)...प्लीज आप बैठिए ...(व्यवधान)...

SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: You have no right to interrupt. ....(*interruptions*).....

श्री उपसभापति: राष्ट्रपाल जी, आप बैठिए। ...(व्यवधान).. राष्ट्रपाल जी, आप बैठिए।... (व्यवधान)....यह ठीक नहीं है। ...(व्यवधान)...I am here to respond ...(*interruptions*)... Please sit down ...(*interruptions*)... Please sit down. ...(*interruptions*)... Please sit down.

SHRI K. KESHAVA RAO: She is a Member of the other House. Why is he referring to her name?

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*Not recorded.

SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Because she happens to be the President of your party ...(*interruptions*)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please sit down ...(*interruptions*)... Please sit down.

SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, you have not allowed any Member to speak ...(*interruptions*)...

श्री उपसभापति: राष्ट्रपाल जी, यह क्या है ...(व्यवधान)...

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Sir,*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no; nothing will go on record. ...(*interruptions*)...Mr. Ramachandraiah, please sit down. ...(*interruptions*)... Mr. Ramachandraiah, don't take note of all those thing ...(*interruptions*)...

SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: We won't allow it.

SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: What is the unparliamentary word I have used? ...(*interruptions*)... What is the unparliamentary word I have used here? ...(*interruptions*)...

SHRI AMAR SINGH: If you accept that ...(*interruptions*)... We will create a ruckus. If you accept the challenge, we also accept it. ...(*interruptions*)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please sit down...(*interruptions*)...Please sit down ....(*interruptions*)...Please sit down...(*interruptions*)...You are also not recognising the Chair ...(*interruptions*)...They are also not recognising the Chair... (*interruptions*)... I said, "You please sit down". Let him conclude. This will not go on ...(*interruptions*)... This will not go on. ...(*interruptions*)...

SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: You have to listen to our complaint also ...(*interruptions*)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: There is a way. I am listening. ...(*interruptions*)...I requested you to sit down. But you are just interrupting. How can I prevent a Member from participating in a debate? ...(*interruptions*)...

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Has Mr. Amar Singh got a right to interrupt the debate? ...(*interruptions*)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I can tell Mr. Amar Singh, but you can't. ...(*interruptions*)...

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*Not recorded.

SHRI AMAR SINGH: If you interrupt 100 times, I will interrupt 200 times. ...(*interruptions*)...

श्री उपसभापति: अमर सिंह जी, आप बैठिए। ...(व्यवधान)...आप बैठिए। ...(व्यवधान)...

Are we discussing the price rise?...(*interruptions*)...

SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Sir, you ask them to sit down. ...(*interruptions*)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Narayanasamy, please sit down. ...(*interruptions*)... अमर सिंह जी, आप बैठिए। ...(व्यवधान)...आप बैठिए। ...(व्यवधान)...

SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: You don't know so many thing. ...(*interruptions*)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Ramchandraiah, I think, for the first time you are indulging in these thing. ...(*interruptions*)... Mr. Reddy, you please take your seat. You always participate in the debate. Please don't take cognisance of these thing. It still happens. ...(*interruptions*)...

SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: You can't expect me to indulge in sycophancy. ...(*interruptions*)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Then only the disruption takes place. Please conclude ...(*interruptions*)...

SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Sir, they can't expect me to indulge in sycophancy. ...(*interruptions*)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Sir, I repeat with all the strength at my command that more than 4,000 farmers committed suicide.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That is your statement. That is on record.

SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: I will repeat that with all the vigour at my command.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Kindly conclude.

SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Sir, I request the Government to kindly strengthen the PDS as they have promised or committed to the nation. I was told that the Government is considering a proposal on hiking the prices of foodgrains for BPL and APL categories and cuting allocations to both the sections. In the case of Antyodaya programme, the allocation has already been decreased, as Shrimati Brinda Karat has pointed out. So, our request is that the Government should not indluge in such retrograde steps. We request them to kindly strengthen the PDS so that every common man will get the ration and no person will die of hunger in this country.

As far as petro prices, which the Government is mainly advancing, are concerned ....*(interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Ramachandraiah, your time is over. I have to regulate the time. Please understand the difficulty of the Chair. I have to requlate the time. Each party has been allocated a particular time. All of you know about it.

SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Okay, Sir, I will conclude. My last request to the Minister is, please rationalise the tax structure. You reduce the taxes on crude oil so that the profits can be contained to a certain extent. The crude prices automatically go up. When the international situation improves, the prices will go up. But you never have the habit of decreasing the prices, once you increase it, even though the crude prices come down. This Government has got the sagacity and it has done it. You kindly do it. The administered price system has been abolished and the Prime Minister has gone to the extent of saying that the petroleum companies will have the liberty of fixing the prices. This is not the time. This is not the correct time. My request is, kindly bestow attention to it and be kind enough towards the common man. You reduce the tax structure and bring down the oil prices so that it will not have a commensurate effect on the articles. Thank you.

डा॰ प्रभा ठाकुर (राजस्थान): सर, मेरे लिए कितना समय है?

श्री उपसभापति: आपके लिए 10 मिनट का समय है।

डा॰ प्रभा ठाकुर: सर, बहुत ही गंभीर समस्या पर आज इस सदन में चर्चा हो रही है। इस बात से तो किसी को इंकार नहीं है कि इस समय देश में हालात ये हैं कि देश की आम जनता, देश का गरीब

आदमी या आम आदमी महंगाई की मार से पीड़ित है, त्रस्त है। अब उसके लिए कौन जिम्मेदार है, क्या उसके कारण हैं, क्या उसके निराकरण हो सकते हैं, इस बारे में विचार किया जाना चाहिए और सदन में कुछ बड़े अच्छे विचार आए भी हैं, लेकिन फिर भी अफसोस है कि कई लोग महंगाई जैसे मुद्दे पर भी, जिससे कि जनता पीड़ित है, उस पर भी राजनीति करने से नहीं चूकते और इस मौके पर भी देखते हैं कि इस परिस्थिति का किस तरह से राजनीतिक लाभ उठाया जाए। बजाए इसके कि उसके लिए कुछ कंक्रीट सुझाव दिए जाएं कि किस प्रकार रोटी, कपड़ा और मकान जैसी बुनियादी चीजों से जुड़ी हुई जो तमाम सामग्रियां हैं, उनके मूल्यों में कमी लाई जाए। आज उन सभी के मूल्यों में बेतहाशा वृद्धि हुई है और यह एक बेहद चिंता क कारण है, सदन को चिंता है, सरकार को चिंता है, प्रधानमंत्री जी को चिंता है, वित्त मंत्री जी को चिंता है, सारा देश इस चिंता से जुड़ा हुआ है और हम उस पर चर्चा कर रहे हैं।

महोदय, जिस तरह से आज खाद्य सामग्री, मकान बनाने संबंधी सामग्री, पैट्रोलियम पदार्थों के मूल्य बढ़े हैं और सब्जी, दूध, दही, मसाले, तिलहन, दलहन, सभी चीजों के दामों में पिछले 8-9 महीनों में जो डेढ़ गुणी या दो गुणी वृद्धि हुई है, इस पर कैसे रोक लगाई जाए, इस बारे में मैं कुछ बातें कहना चाहूंगी, क्योंकि, महोदय, घर महिलाओं को चलाना पड़ता है, इसलिए इस देश की औरतों के सामने, जो गृहस्थी चला रही है, एक बड़ा भारी संकट पैदा हो गया है कि सीमित बजट में, सीमित आय में वे कैसे अपना घर चलाएं, कैसे अपने बच्चें को पढ़ाएं, किस तरह से बुजुर्गों की देख भाल करें, फिर चिकित्सा संबंधी बातें भी होती हैं, शादी-ब्याह की भी स्थितियां होती हैं, ये सब बातें होती हैं, तो इस महंगाई में सीमित आमदनी में किस तरह से गुजारा हो। हमारे विपक्ष के साथी अगर इस मुद्दे पर सारा दोषारोपण केवल केन्द्र सरकार पर डालकर अपनी जिम्मेदारी से पल्ला झाड़ लें, तो मैं कहूंगी कि यह सिर्फ राजनीति है। मैं कहना चाहती हूं कि केन्द्र के साथ ही इसके लिए बराबर की जिम्मेदारी राज्य सरकारों की भी होती है, क्योंकि ऐसा नहीं हो सकता कि जब कभी भी कोई आतंकवाद की घटना हो, कानून-व्यवस्था की घटना हो, महंगाई का प्रश्न हो या राशन व्यवस्था का प्रश्न हो तो उसकी सारी जिम्मेदारी केन्द्र सरकार के मत्थे मढ़ दी जाए। क्या राज्य सरकारें केवल राज चलाने के लिए हैं या राज करने के लिए हैं? उनकी भी उतनी ही जिम्मेदारी है और उन्हें भी देखना चाहिए कि वे किस तरह से आज के महंगाई के दौर पर काबू पाएं। माननीय वित्त मंत्री जी यहां बैठे हुए हैं, वे प्रसिद्ध अर्थशास्त्री हैं, 8 प्रतिशत से अधिक जो विकास दर देश की पहुंची है, उसमें उनका काफी योगदान है, लेकिन मैं उनसे निवेदन करना चाहूंगी कि आज जो अर्सेशियल कमोडिटीज़ एक्ट है, इसमें अगर आपने इसलिए कोई तरमीम किया था ताकि इंस्पेक्टर राज खत्म हो, व्यापारियों को सुविधा मिले, लेकिन आज अगर उसका दुरुपयोग हो रहा है, अगर कोई व्यापारी, दलाल, सटोरिए, ब्लैक मार्किट करने वाले या जमाखोर लोग इस कानून के कारण सुविधा या लाभ उठा रहे हैं तो आपने जिस तरह से इंस्पेक्टर राज खत्म करने के लिए कोई कानून

बनाया था, उसी तरह से इन लोगों पर कड़ी कार्रवाई करने के लिए, इन पर रोकथाम करने के लिए भी इस असेंशियल कमोडिटीज़ एक्ट में यदि कोई संशोधन या सुधार करने की जरूरत हो, वह की जानी चाहिए।

मैं स्वच्छ पेयजल के बारे में कहना चाहती हूं कि आज हम देखते हैं कि दूध के भाव पर बोतलों में पानी, स्वच्छ पेयजल मिलता है। ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में दूर-दराज तक आज भी आम आदमी को पीने के लिए स्वच्छ पेयजल नहीं मिलता। कई जगहों पर मैं जानती हूं कि ये या तो फ्लोराइड वाला पानी पी रहे हैं या प्रदूषित पीने के लिए बाध्य हैं, इसलिए आज यह भी एक जरूरी कमोडिटी में शामिल होना चाहिए कि एक आम आदमी को किस तरह से एक, डेढ़ या दो रुपए की लागत में एक स्वच्छ पेयजल की बोतल मिल सके, दूध के भाव में उसे स्वच्छ पेयजल न मिले।

महोदय, महंगाई पर नियंत्रण करने के लिए, कंट्रोल आर्डर के जरिए आप किस प्रकार महंगाई पर नियंत्रण पा सकते हैं, इसकी केन्द्र सरकार राज्य सरकारों पर पूरी मॉनिटरिंग रखे, क्योंकि कई राज्यों में, जो भा॰ज॰पा॰ शासित राज्य हैं, व्यापारियों को कई मामलों में इस तरह की खुली छूट हो जाती है कि वे जो चाहें, मनमानी करें क्योंकि चुनाव के समय उन्हीं से काम पड़ेगा और चंदा लेने में ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री जयन्ती लाल बरोट: आप अपने राज्यों में देखिए। ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री सुरेश भारद्वाज: यह आपे राज्यों में हो रहा है। ...(व्यवधान)...

डा॰ प्रभा ठाकुर : उसके मद्देनज़र वे व्यापारियों को हर तरह की सुविधाएं देते हैं। ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री सुरेश भारद्वाज: आपके यहां दिल्ली में क्या हो रहा है? ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री उपसभापति: देखिए, आप उनको बोलने दीजिए। ...(व्यवधान)... एक महिला बोल रही हैं, उनको बोलने दीजिए। ...(व्यवधान)... महिला बोल रही हैं, आप उन्हें बोलने दीजिए। देखिए, आपको इतना तो सहन करना चाहिए, एक महिला बोल रही हैं ...(व्यवधान)...देखिए, उन्हें बोलने दीजिए ...(व्यवधान)।

एक माननीय सदस्य: आपने दिल्ली के संबंध में कुछ नहीं कहा।

डा॰ प्रभा ठाकुर: मैं दिल्ली की बात भी करूंगी ...(व्यवधान)...

श्रीमती माया सिंह (मध्य प्रदेश): इस मुद्दे पर आपको राजनीति नहीं करनी चाहिए।

डा॰ प्रभा ठाकुर: यह मैं राजनीति नहीं कर रही हूं ...(व्यवधान)

श्रीमती माया सिंह: आप इस महंगाई को झुठलाने का प्रयास कर रही हैं।

श्री उपसभापति: अब हर तरफ से राजनीति हो रही है।

डा॰ प्रभा ठाकुर: महोदय, मैं केवल यथार्थ के आधार पर यह बात कह रही हूं कि व्यापारियों पर, चाहे वे किसी भी राज्य के हों, जो जमाखोरी कर रहे हैं या तो ऑन लाइन वायदा व्यापार अथवा कोई झूठा कारोबार कर रहे हैं, उसी से कीमतों में बेतहाशा वृद्धि होती जा रही है। यह सब फर्जी तरीके से किया जा रहा है, लेकिन इसका जो भी लाभ है, वह ब्लैकमार्किट वाले या जमाखोर उठा रहे हैं, किसानों को इसका कोई लाभ नहीं मिल रहा है। बिचौलिए या दलाल इसका पूरा लाभ उठा रहे हैं, लेकिन किसानों को कोई मदद नहीं मिल रही है। इस कार्य में जिस किसी का भी हाथ है, राज्य सरकारों के द्वारा उन पर अंकुश क्यों नहीं लगाया जाता है? किसी भी प्रणाली के माध्यम से अथवा कंट्रोल ऑर्डर के जरिए उन पर अंकुश लगाया जाना चाहिए। उनके ऊपर यह मॉनिटरिंग होनी चाहिए कि उनके पास कितना स्टॉक है, कितने स्टॉक की बिक्री हुई, कितने की खरीद हुई, किस दाम में खरीद की गई, किस कीमत में उसे बेचा गया, इन सब चीज़ो में ट्रांसपेरेंसी होनी चाहिए और इसे डिस्प्ले किया जाना चाहिए। केन्द्र इसकी मॉनिटरिंग करे और वह किसी भी तरह इसे सुनिश्चित करे, लेकिन इस महंगाई पर नियंत्रण होना चाहिए।

महोदय, भंडारण और संग्रहण की यह जो प्रवृत्ति है, जो लोग भी इसे करते हैं, चाहे संबंधित अधिकारी हों या व्यापारी, मैं चाहती हूं कि उनकी जिम्मेदारी सुनिश्चित की जाए और जो अपनी जिम्मेदारी में या जवाबदेही में कामयाब न हों, ऐसे अधिकारियों और व्यापारियों को दंडित किया जाए। उन पर कड़ा जुर्माना लगाया जाए, ताकि जनता इस महंगाई की मार से बच सके। इसके लिए कड़े उपाय किए जाने जरूरी हैं।

महोदय, मैं राजस्थान से आती हूं, अभी वहां से दिल्ली की बात उठाई गई। पेट्रोलियम पदार्थों की कीमतों में वृद्धि हुई और सभी जानते हैं कि यह पेट्रोलियम पदार्थ अंतर्राष्ट्रीय बाजार से लिए जाते हैं, भारत इस संबंध में आत्मनिर्भर नहीं है, हमें अंतर्राष्ट्रीय बाज़ार से ही इन पदार्थों को लेना होता है। यह समय ग्लोबलाइज़ेशन का समय है। जब अंतर्राष्ट्रीय बाजार में तेल व डीज़ल के दामों में वृद्धि होती है, उसी दाम में भारत सरकार को भी यह लेना पड़ता है और महंगे दामों लिया हुआ तेल व डीज़ल उन्हीं दामों मे बिकता है, इस तरह उनके दाम बढ़ रहे हैं। लेकिन कांग्रेस शासित प्रदेशों की नीयत में एक भावना अवश्य है कि आम आदमी पर इन चीज़ों का बोझ अत्यधिक न बढ़े। इसके लिए आज कांग्रेस शासित प्रदेशों में, चाहे वह दिल्ली हो, हरियाणा हो या महाराष्ट्र हो, राज्य सरकारों ने सुनिश्चित किया कि वहां पर इन चीज़ों पर और अधिक सेल टैक्स नहीं लगाया जाएगा, ताकि जनता को राज्य सरकार के द्वारा पेट्रोलियम पदार्थों में राहत दी जा सके, दूसरी तरफ हाल ही में मध्य प्रदेश में एक गैस सिलैंडर के ऊपर 24 रुपये की वृद्धि कर दी गई है। यहां पर मैं यह कहना चाहती हूं कि यह जिम्मेदारी सामूहिक है और पेट्रोलियम पदार्थों के दामों पर-रोक कैसे लगे, इस पर बीजेपी शासित प्रदेशों के लोगों को भी सोचना चाहिए। केवल घड़ियाली आंसू बहाने और लिप-सिम्पेथी दिखाने से कुछ नहीं होगा। अगर उनकी भावना वाकई में सच्ची हे, तो उन्हें इस क्षेत्र में स्वय कुछ

करना चाहिए। मैं उन्हें एक उदाहरण देना चाहूंगी, मैं हमारे रेल मंत्री श्री लालू प्रसाद जी को बधाई देती हूं, जिन्होंने डीज़ल के दाम बढ़ाने के बावजूद भी यात्री भाड़े एवं माल-भाड़े में कोई वृद्धि नहीं की है और फिर भी रेलवे को घाटे से मुनाफे में ले आए। आज रेलवे को हज़ारों करोड़ का मुनाफा हो रहा है। इस उदाहरण से हमें सीख लेनी चाहिए कि किस प्रकार से ऐसी स्थिति में भी महंगाई पर नियंत्रण किया जा सकता है और आम जनता को राहत दी जा सकती है। कोरी ज़बानी सहानुभूति दिखाने से कुछ नहीं होता, जनता इन सब बातों को समझती है और अब केवल बातों से काम नहीं चलेगा। वोट लेने के समय तो सभी वायदे करते हैं, फिर चाहे वह केन्द्र सरकार हो या राज्य सरकारें। राजस्थान की राज्य सरकार ने वायदा किया था कि वहां पर हाउस टैक्स हटा दिया जाएगा, उनके घोषणा-पत्र में, मेनिफैस्टो में यह शामिल था, लेकिन सत्ता में आने के बाद सरकार अपना वायदा भूल गई। वहां पर कोई हाउस टैक्स माफ नहीं किया गया और जनता में इस बात को लेकर काफी आक्रोश भी है। मुझे नज़ीर बनारसी का शेर याद आता है कि

सब कुछ है मेरे देश में, रोटी नहीं तो क्या।

वादे लपेट लो, जो लंगोटी नहीं तो क्या।।

इस तरह की स्थिति न बने और जो वायदे किए जाएं, उन्हें पूरा करने का दायित्व केन्द्र सरकार का तो है ही, राज्य सरकारें भी उन्हें उसी तरह से पूरा करें। मैं अंत में आपको यह बताना चाहती हूं कि केन्द्र सरकार ने यह हजारों करोड़ रुपया समर्थन मूल्य के बाजरे की खरीद और सरसों की खरीद के लिए दिया। राजस्थान में तीन साल से करोड़ों रुपए का बाजरा पड़ा हुआ है जो सड़ गया, बरबाद हो गया तथा यह अब पशुओं के खाने लायक भी नहीं रहा तथा यह किसी उपयोग में नहीं आया। आखिर वह भारत सरकार का पैसा जो आम जनता का पैसा है, वह यहां से राजस्थान को दिया गया। वहां पर एक अरब की सरसों पड़ी हुई है जो एक साल से बरबाद हो रही है, उसका कोई उपयोग भी नहीं हो पा रहा है तथा वह किसी के काम नहीं आ रही है। महोदय, आज केन्द्र सरकार हर मौके पर चाहे समर्थन मूल्य के लिए, सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली के लिए तथा राशन के लिए राज्य सरकारों को मदद देती है, सहायता करती है और राशि भी दी जाती है। लेकिन राज्य सरकारों का भी यह काम है कि सही तरीके से सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली चले। आज राशन की दुकानों से ब्लैक मार्केटिंग हो रही है, लोगों को ठीक से राशन नहीं मिल रहा है तथा उनको कोटा कम कर दिया गया है चाहे वह तेल का कोटा हो या गेहूं का कोटा हो। तो उस प्रणाली को सुव्यवस्थित करने और वह प्रणाली ठीक तरह से काम करे, यह देखना राज्य सरकारों का काम है, उन्हें भी यह देखना चाहिए तथा केन्द्र सरकार को भी पूरी मॉनिटरिंग करनी चाहिए। अन्त में, मैं केवल इतना ही कहना चाहूंगी कि ....(व्यवधान)

श्री उपसभापति: जयन्ती लाल जी, उनको अपने विचार रखने दीजिए, क्यों बीच में दखल देते हो। ...(व्यवधान) आप कहते हैं गलत है, वह तो गलत नहीं कहती।...(व्यवधान)

श्री ललित किशोर चतुर्वेदी (राजस्थान): महोदय, आपको मालूम है कि सरसों का पैसा केन्द्र नहीं दे रही है, वह कह रही हैं कि सहयोग करो...(**व्यवधान**)

डा॰ प्रभा ठाकुर: वहां हजारों करोड़ रुपया दिया जा चुका है।...(**व्यवधान**)

श्री उपसभापति: आपकी पार्टी से श्री रामदास अग्रवाल जी बोल चुके हैं, अब फिर क्यों बीच में बोल रहे हैं।... रुल्स में नहीं है कि आप उनको करक्ट करें यह आपको अधिकार नहीं है।

डा॰ प्रभा ठाकुर: महोदय, राजस्थान के माननीय सदस्य टोक रहे हैं, मैं इतना ही कहना चाहूंगी कि जिस तरह से राजस्थान सरकार ने आज शराब की दुकानें गांव-गांव तक खुलवा दी हैं, मतलब राशन की दुकानों से ज्यादा हैं, वहां राशन मिले या न मिले लेकिन शराब पूरे तौर पर उपलब्ध है। वहां शराब की कोई कमी नहीं है।...(**व्यवधान**) महोदय, इस सदन में मेरा निवेदन है कि राजस्थान सरकार की इतनी संवेदनशीलता राशन प्रणाली के प्रति भी हो कि आम आदमी को गांव-गांव में कम कीमत पर किस तरह से यह सब सामान मिले तथा इसका जिस तरह से लोग दुरुपयोग कर रहे हैं उस पर रोकथाम लगाई जाए। मैं समझती हूं कि इसमें केन्द्र सरकार और राज्य सरकारें मिलकर कुछ ऐसी व्यवस्था विकसित करें कि जो भी यह कानून बने हैं–एसेंशियल कमोडिटीज एक्ट, इसका लाभ आम आदमी को मिले, आम जनता को मिले, ब्लैक मार्केटियों, जमाखोरों को, दलालों को और सटोरियों को इसका लाभ नहीं मिल पाए, यह देखना जरूरी काम है और इसका लाभ असलियत में गांव के उस गरीब को मिले, उस किसान को मिले जो केन्द्र सरकार को और राज्य सरकार को बड़ी आशा से चुनकर लाता है अपने लिए। मैं यह ही कहना चाहूंगी कि यदि अपना गांव गरीब है तो पूरा देश गरीब है। अगर इसका समाधान नहीं होता है तो आर्थिक विकास के भी कोई मायने नहीं रहते। धन्यवाद।

श्री अवनि राय (पश्चिमी बंगाल): सर, महंगाई के ऊपर बात हो रही है। मैं सरकार से इतना जानना चाहता हूं कि महंगाई बढ़ी कि नहीं बढ़ी तथा वे महंगाई को कैसे कम कर सकते हैं? सब चीजें हमारे पास ठीक दाम पर उपलब्ध हों। मैं सरकार से यह दरख्वास्त करुंगा कि सरकार इस बारे में क्या सोच रही है। भले ही यहां हमने कितनी ही बहस करदी तथा यही कहा गया कि इसमें राजनीति नहीं करनी चाहिए। चाहे कोई भी इधर के हों या उधर के हों, दोनों राजनीति के साथ चल ही रहे ह। केन्द्र की कोई रेस्पांसिबिलिटी नहीं है और अगर राज्य की है तो राज्य में कौन है, कहां पर है, यह सब बातें इससे संबंधित नहीं हैं। सीधी बात जहां है कि जो यू॰पी॰ए॰ सरकार है तथा पहले एन॰डी॰ए॰ की सरकार ने इसमें कोई गलती की है तो उसको सुधारना चाहिए तथा ऐसी नीति अपनानी चाहिए ताकि महंगाई कम हो। पहले वाली सरकार ने क्या करके दिया, हम उसी को दोष देते रहें। इस बहस से तो महंगाई कम नहीं होगी, दाम कम नहीं होंगे, जिससे दाम कम होंगे, वह निर्णय लेना होगा। सरकार कया निर्णय इसके बारे में ले रही है, इसकी बात है। महंगाई को लेकर

सभी राजनैतिक दलों ने आवाज उठाई है। इतने सारे शोर की बात हुई, कांग्रेस वर्किंग कमेटी ने भी यह सत्य तय किया था कि 15 दिन के अंदर महंगाई कंट्रोल होनी चाहिए। क्या अभी तक 15 दिन खत्म नहीं हुए हैं? आज की सरकार को समर्थन देने के साथ-साथ, बार-बार कहा जाता है कि हम जनता के साथ हैं। आम आदमी, आम आदमी करके भी पोलिटिक्स हो रही है। महंगाई के साथ पेट्रोल, डीजल की बात भी जुड़ी हुई है। जब पेट्रोल और डीजल के दाम बढ़ जाते हैं, खासतौर पर डीजल के दाम बढ़ जाते हैं, तो इससे ट्रक वालों को ही नहीं, किसानों को भी तकलीफ होती है, पम्प सैट चलाने में तकलीफ होती है। जब किसानों को तकलीफ होती है, तो उनकी तकलीफों को हटाना पड़ेगा। अगर एमएसपी को तय नहीं कर पायें, उनका क्या खर्चा है, खाद पर क्या खर्चा हो रहा है, हर चीज़ को ठीक करके अगर दाम ठीक नहीं कर पायें, हमारा कितना प्रोक्योरमेंट है, हमें कितने अनाज की जरुरत है, कितना आवश्यक है, इस की ओर ध्यान नहीं दें, तो क्या-क्या वस्तुएं हैं और कितनी चाहिए, इसके ऊपर ध्यान देकर हमें उसको करना चाहिए। हमने बाजार को खुला कर दिया और खुला करने के बाद हमारे पास जो गोदाम हैं, वे खाली हो गये। जहां तक खाद्यान्न की बात है, इसमें एफसीआई पर सरकार का कम ध्यान है। सरकार का ध्यान एफडीआई पर है, एफआईआई पर है और एफसीआई छूट गई है। हमारे जो गोदाम हैं, वे भरे नहीं होंगे, अगर हम टीपीडीएस को ठीक नहीं कर पायेंगे। हम देश की जनता की बात करेंगे, लेकिन देश की जनता भूखी रहेगी, तो यह ठीक नहीं है। हमारे देश में एक तरफ सूखा पड़ता है और दूसरी तरफ बाढ़ आती है। अब दो दिन बाद जाने वाली है, आप वहां पर कैसे सामग्री पहुचायेंगे? दाम और भी बढ़ जायेंगे। ऐसी हालत में, मैं सरकार से यही दरख्वास्त करता हूं कि सरकार इस बारे में क्या-क्या कदम उठा रही है ओर कैसे इसको कंट्रोल में लायेगी? किस ढंग से लायेगी? बाहर से आमदनी करके, हमारे यहां सब चीज की पूर्ति नहीं होगी। हर चीज बाहर से आयेगी और बाहर वाली कोई भी चीज़ हमारे लिए लाभदायक नहीं है, वह स्वास्थ्य के लिए भी हानिकारक है। ऐसी स्थिति में इस पर विचार किया जाना चाहिए कि हमारे देश में कैसे पैदावार बढ़ाई जाये। हमारी जो एग्रीकल्चरल नीतियां हैं, वे भी डब्ल्यूटीओ की वजह से खत्म होती जा रही हैं। हमारे देश में जो किसान हैं, उन्होंने आत्म-हत्या की है कि नहीं की है? मैं तीन हजार, चार हजार की बात नहीं कर रहा हूं, अगर एक भी किसान ने आत्म हत्या की होगी, गलत रिपोर्ट की बात छोड़िए, एक भी किसान ने आत्म-हत्या की होगी, ऐसे देश में जो कृषि पर निर्भर देश है, उसमें अगर एक भी किसान आत्म-हत्या करेगा, वह हमारे लिए शर्मदायक है। किसी ने तीन हजार कह दिया, किसी ने चार हजार कह दिया, हमारी बहस इसी में चल रही है, यह गलत बात है, ऐसा मैं कह रहा हूं। आप यह मत भूल जाइये कि आज आप सरकार में हैं यह आपकी नीति में है। जब कांग्रेस 1995 में पावर में थी, उस टाइम यह उदार नीति आपने अपनाई थी। उसको भूल गये, उस दिन के वित्त मंत्री कौन थे, इसको भूल गये। आपकी नीति को ही एनडीए ने अपनाया और आज आप वहीं नीति अपना रहे हैं। नई उदार नीति आपने अपनाई, गलतियां आपने कीं, इनको सुधारना आपको होगा। देश की जनता के लिए जब तक आपकी नीति नहीं सुधरेगी, जब

तक आप आम जनता की बात खाली कहते जाएंगे, मजदूरों की बात कहते जाएंगे, गरीबों की बात कहते जाएंगे, जब तक उनका पेट नहीं भरेगा, जब तक उनको काम नहीं मिलेगा, इससे चुनाव नहीं जीत पाओगे। ऐसी स्थिति में सरकार इस महंगाई को कम करने के लिए क्या सोच रही है, यह जानकारी हमें चाहिए और सरकार कब इस संबंध में कदम उठाएगी? कितने होर्डर्स को आपने अरेस्ट किया है? कानून हैं तो ही पड़े हैं। यह सब एक दिन में नहीं हुआ, दाल एक दिन में 56 रुपए, 60 रुपए किलो नहीं हो गयी। क्या सरकार के दिमाग में नहीं आया कि दाल का दाम आहिस्ता-आहिस्ता बढ़ता जा रहा है? यह ध्यान अगर सरकार नहीं रखेगी तो कौन रखेगा? ऐसा नहीं हुआ कि अचानक आ गया हो और आपने कह दिया कि ऐसा हो गया। कोई बाढ़ तो नहीं आयी। पानी आहिस्ता-आहिस्ता बढ़ता गया, दाम आहिस्ता-आहिस्ता बढ़ता गया। आपने, जहां पर हमारी केन्द्रीय भंडार की दुकाने थीं, वह भी बंद कर दीं, सुपर बाजान बंद कर दिये। खुले बाज़ार में सब चलता जा रहा है और दाम बढ़ते जा रहे हैं। अगर कहीं पर कोई गलती हो–ट्रेडर हो, होर्डर हो, कोई भी हो–सरकार छानबीन करे और अगर ऐसा कोई गोदाम हो, जहां पर जमाखोरी है, कहीं कालाबाज़ारी हो रही है, तो उनको सजा दे। मैं यह चेतावनी दे रहा हूं कि जवाहर लाल नेहरु जी ने एक बार कहा था कि अगर कालाबाज़ारी या जमाखोरी होगी तो उसको लेम्प पोस्ट में फांसी दे देंगे। मैं फाँसी की बात नहीं कर रहा हूं। कम से कम जेल में तो डालो। आप यह सोचिए। केन्द्र में हो या राज्य में हो, मैं कह रहा हूं कि इतने दिनों तक प्रधान मंत्री, वित्त मंत्री, खाद्द मंत्री और सब मंत्रियों ने मिलकर क्यों नहीं राज्य के मंत्रियों से मिलकर इस संबंध में सलाह की? क्यों सलाह नहीं की, जब रिसपांसिबिलिटी दोनों की है? ऐसी स्थिति में मैं समझता हूं कि अभी भी वक्त है, आने वाले दिनों में बाढ़ या सूखे की वजह से हमारे लिए प्रॉब्लम और बढ़ जाएगी। मैं इसीलिए सरकार से दर्खास्त करता हूं कि अभी भी वक्त है, राज्य सरकारों के साथ बैठकर, कहीं पर अगर जरूरत पड़े तो उनकी या अपनी नीति को सुधारकर महंगाई को रोकें और जनता को फायदा पहुंचाएं, जनता को सुविधाएं दे, जनता को समस्या से बचाएं। यही मैं सरकार से दर्खास्त करता हूं कि वह अपनी नीतियों में सुधार करे। धन्यवाद।

श्री उपसभापति: श्री शरद अनंतराव जोशी। आपके पास पांच मिनट हैं।

SHRI SHARAD ANANTRAO JOSHI (Maharashtra): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, thank you. Unfortunately, I could not follow the intervening one hour's debate, so I will try to be very brief and talk only on some points. I never take more than five minutes.

Sir, as regards who is responsible तू-तू, मैं-मैं हमने यहां सुनी है, I do not think there is any scope for that because if you see the first Economic Survey that the Finance Minister presented in the present tenure, it gives a clean chit to the NDA that the UPA received an economy in a robust condition, good rate of growth, good fiscal deficit rate, good inflation rate. After that,

I must compliment the Finance Minister for having kept up the rate of growth of the GDP. But the consequences are to be seen on the fiscal deficit and the rate of inflation. That is because when you deliberately adopt a course of *aam admi* populism and go on spending money, then naturally the inflationary forces will get the full scope and that is the principal reason of the increase in prices today. Petroleum prices, etc., are only secondary matters.

Sir, I only got up to clarify certain things. Number one, Essential Commoditis Act has been a major instrument of tyranny against farmers. People talk as if it is an instrument against traders, but if you see the history of the last fifty years, the Essential Commodities Act has always been used to depress agricultural prices and if anybody dares, I am using the word 'dares', to restore with the Essential Commodities Act, the Indian farmers will stand against it and that should be remembered.

The second thing is, Sir, about the commodity exchanges. There is a definite misunderstanding that commodity exchanges and future markets are meant for profiteers. I would like to make it clear that commodity exchanges and future markets play very important role from the point of view of farmers because they provide a link between the present prices and the future prices. And if anybody tries to touch the commodities exchange, he will have to deal with the farmers' opinion. Sir, the important cause of the increase in prices, as I said, is *aam adami* populism. If the Finance Minister succumbed to the temptation of political populism, I think, in the years to come he will give a better performance on this count also. He is already giving a commendable performance of the rate of growth. But if the rate of growth, which is good, is accompanied by a higher rate of inflation, then it does not serve anybody. Thank you.

श्री दिनेश त्रिवेदी (पश्चिमी बंगाल): उपसभापति महोदय, आखिर में जो बोलता है, उसके पास दो चीजों की कमी होती है–एक तो समय की कमी होती है और दूसरे, बिंदुओं की कमी होती है क्योंकि विस्तृत चर्चा हो चुकी होती है और मैं समझता हूं कि वृंदा जी, शरद यादव जी और वेंकैया जी ने जो मुद्दे रखे हैं, उसके बाद ज्यादा चर्चा करने को कुछ नहीं रहा, लेकिन फिर भी कुछ मोटी-मोटी बातें मैं कहूंगा। सर, बचपन में हम मुहावरे सुना करते थे कि "आटे-दाल का भाव मालूम पड़ जाएगा", "छठी का दूध याद आ जाएगा", तो इन मुहावरों का मतलब क्या है, वह आज हमें समझ आता है।

सर, बहुत बात हुई कि इनकी सरकार, हमारी सरकार, उनकी सरकार, लेकिन सरकार चाहे किसी की भी हो और मैं यह कोई बड़ी बात नहीं कर रहा हूं, सबकी समझ में यह है कि देश तो अपना है, सरकार आएगी और जाएगी और कभी-कभी लगता है कि ऐसी बहस के लिए छः घंटे बहस हो गई, कुछ अखबारों में सुर्खियों में आ गया और काम हो गया। तो मुझे लगता है कि हमें इन सब चीज़ों से उठकर कुछ हल ज़रूर ढूंढना होगा, सबको मिलकर ढूंढना होगा।

सर, आम आदमी की बात हुई। चाहे किसी की भी सरकार हो, मैं महसूस करता हूं कि आम आदमी के नाम पर आदमियों को हमने आम बना लिया है और उस आम को हम चूस रहे हैं या उनका अचार बना रहे हैं। चाहे जिसकी भी सरकार हो ...(व्यवधान)... सर, डा॰ प्रभा जी ने रोटी, कपड़ा और मकान की बात की और मैं आज भी यह समझता हूं कि रोटी, कपड़ा और मकान, हमारे देश का जो गरीब नागरिक है, वह हमसे कुछ नहीं मागता है। वह हमसे सिर्फ ज़िंदगी मांगता है। एक ज़माना था कि हम बटुए में पैसा लेकर बाज़ार जाते थे और टोकरी में या बोरे में अनाज या सब्जी लेकर आते थे, लेकिन अब वक्त यह आ गया है कि हम टोकरी में या बोरे में पैसे लेकर जाते हैं और बटुए में अनाज लेकर आते हैं, यह परिस्थिति आ गई है। ...(व्यवधान)... पैसे की कुछ कीमत नहीं रही है। अब देखिए, मैं समझता था कि यहां कुछ गंभीर बातें करूंगा, मगर हमारी कैंटीन में सब कुद सबसिडाइज्ड मिलता है, तो लाज़मी है कि एम.पी. को पता नहीं चलता है कि आटे-दाल का भाव क्या है? हमें यह लगता है कि हम सबको कैंटीन में जो यह सबसिडाइज्ड खाना मिल रहा है, उसको तुरंत बंद कर देना चाहिए, ताकि हमें यह भी पता चले कि आखिर दाम किसको कहते हैं। ... (व्यवधान)... सर, मुद्दा क्या है? ...(व्यवधान)... मेबल जी, आप सीरियसली सुन लीजिए। मुद्दा है माइंड सेट का। रूट कॉज़ क्या है? रूट कॉज़ है माइंड सेट का। पंडित जवाहरलाल नेहरू, गांधी जी ने हमें रियासत में एक सोशलिस्ट पैटर्न दिया। गांधी जी ने कहा था कि जब तक हर एक गरीब की आंख का आंसू सूख नहीं जाता है, तब तक हमें आज़ादी नहीं मिलती, तो यह हम सब जानते हैं कि गरीब की आंख का आंसू सूखने का तो सवाल ही नहीं है। सर, यह देश फिर गरीब और अमीर में बंट चुका है। यहां गरीबों की तादाद बहुत ही ज्यादा है। यहां पर वित्त मंत्री जी बैठे हैं, वे GDP की बात करेंगे कि GDP बताता है कि कितनी संख्या बढ़ी है और हमारी इकोनोमिक परिस्थिति क्या है? सर, GDP is just a statistical detail. आप आठ परसेंट करें या दस परसेंट करें, उसका डिस्ट्रीब्यूशन कहां जाता है? सर, statistical में क्या होता है, हम आपको एक उदाहरण देते हैं कि यदि आपका एक पांव frozen पानी में है और दूसरा पांव उबलते हुए पानी में है, तो statistician कहेगा, on an average man is very comfortable. तो आज यही है कि एक जन के पास ऊपर वाले 20 प्रतिशत लोगों के पास, वह आठ परसेंट या दस परसेंट या बारह परसेंट की GDP आकर रुक जाती है, वह नीचे तक नहीं आती है। कहने का मकसद यह है कि आप root cause पर जाइए, route casue है mind set, socialist pattern के लोग जब capitalist की

बात करते हैं, तो बात समझ में आती है। वृंदा जी मैं माफी चाहूंगा कि जब communist कहते हैं कि हम communist नहीं हैं, हम capitalist हैं तो मुझे दुख होता है। वहां भी हमें कहीं-कहीं पर आशा का चिराग दिखता था कि सब के पास एक ही समान होगा और सबको एक ही तरीके का खाना मिलेगा, मगर वह दिखता नहीं है। सर, फ्रांस में ...(व्यवधान)...

श्रीमती वृंदा कारत: सर, माननीय सदस्य पता नहीं किस बारे में जिक्र कर रहे हैं, लेकिन वे अगर थोड़े अखबारों पर ही अपनी बात को आधारित कर रहे हैं तो मैं इनसे रिक्वेस्ट करूंगी कि आपको निराश होने की कतई जरूरत नहीं है क्योंकि किसी भी communist ने कभी कोई ऐसा बयान नहीं दिया। ...(व्यवधान)... हां, वे गोर्बाचोव की बात कर रहे होंगे तो वह अलग बात है, लेकिन हमारे यहां से और हमारी पार्टी से किसी ने कोई बयान नहीं दिया है।

श्री दिनेश त्रिवेदी: हम इस बहस में नहीं जाएंगे। ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री उपसभापति: बैठ जाइए, बैठ जाइए।

श्री दिनेश त्रिवेदी: हमारे बंगाल के मुख्य मंत्री हैं, उन्होंने कहा है कि हम communist कहां हैं? हम तो capitalist हैं। ...(व्यवधान)...

श्रीमती वृंदा कारत: सर, इसीलिए मैंने कहा है कि अखबारों के आधार पर अपनी पॉलिटिक्स चलाना कहां तक सही है?

श्री दिनेश त्रिवेदी: सर, यहां commodity की बात कही गई है। जब अनाज की बात आती है तो विदेशों में, America में अनाज commodity हो सकता है, मगर भारतवर्ष में अनाज commodity नहीं है। वह एक life sustenance खाने की सामग्री है, जिससे ज़िंदगी और मौत का फर्क है। इसलिए मेहरबानी करके वित्त मंत्री जी, आप इसको commodity मत बनाइए। यहां पर commodity trading futures की बात सभी ने कही है। हम तो एक ही बात कहेंगे कि जब आप जाकर future trading करते हैं तो वह hoarding है, आप उसका उपयोग नहीं कर रहे हैं। आप इनडायरेक्टली अनाज का hoarding कर रहे हैं। इस hoarding के लिए सजा जो भी सज़ा एक होर्डर को मिलती है, commodity मार्केट के future में जो trading करता है, वह सज़ा आज उसको मिलनी चाहिए। ...(व्यवधान)... सर, जब हमने जिंदगी और मौत का सवाल बताया तो ...(व्यवधान)... देखिए, बागड़ोदिया जी, हम राजनीति में नहीं जाना चाहते हैं। आपको भी गलती करके इस तरफ आने का इतना ही शौक है, तो आप उस गलती को दोहराते जाइए। सर, जिंदगी और मौत की बात हम एक मिनट में खत्म करेंगे। जिंदगी और मौत की यह बात है, हमारे खाने की सामग्री। अभी दो-तीन महीने पहले टेलीविजन में हम एक बच्चे प्रिंस को सब देख रहे थे। उस नन्हें-मुन्ने गरीब बच्चे को जब ज़िंदगी मिली, तो हम सब खुश हो गए, तो खुशहाली जिंदगी

देने में है, ज़िंदगी आबाद करने में है, ज़िंदगी लेने में नहीं है, वह सब हम समझते हैं। फ्रांस के लुई Six या Seventh पता नहीं, हम हमेशा हिस्ट्री में कमजोर रहे हैं, उनकी बीवी ने कहा कि क्या बात है, आपको ब्रैड नहीं मिल रही है, रोटी नहीं मिल रही है, तो आप केक खाइए। आज ऐसी परिस्थिति आ गई है कि हम भी यही कहेंगे कि आपको रोटी नहीं मिल रही है, तो क्या हुआ, आप जाकर बादाम खाइए, क्योंकि गेहूं और बादाम के भाव एक ही हो गए हैं। मैं समझता हूं कि यह परिस्थिति न आ पाए, तो बहुत ही अच्छा होगा। अभी हमारे राजीव शुक्ल जी यहां बैठे हुए थे ...(व्यवधान).. देखिए अभी वृंदा जी ने बंगाल की बात की, आज किसान के साथ क्या हो रहा है? आज किसान की जमीन ली जा रही है। जहां वह गेहूं, चावल या सब्जियां उगा रहा है, उसकी जमीन पानी के भाव में ली जा रही है और वहां यह हो रहा है कि सेठों को यह जमीन दी जा रही है। किस भाव में दे रहे हैं? पानी के भाव में नही दे रहे हैं, अभी कुछ दिन पहले मैंने अखबार में पढ़ा कि किसान से जो जमीन ले रहे हैं, उनको कह रहे हैं कि हम future में देंगे, 2 लाख रुपए प्रति एकड़ देंगे और सेठों को चार करोड़ प्रति एकड़ में बेच रहे हैं। मैं यह पूछना चाहता हूं कि ये सरकारें चाहे जिस प्रांत की हों, यदि हम बंगाल की बात करेंगे, तो आप कहेंगे कि पोलिटिकल बात कर रहे हैं, चाहे जिस प्रांत की सरकार हो, क्या यह सरकार ...(व्यवधान)...

श्रीमती वृंदा कारत: उपसभापति जी, ये हिस्ट्री में ही नहीं, गणित में भी काफी कमज़ोर हैं ...(व्यवधान)... Sir, he is not only weak in history, but he is also weak in calculations.

श्री दिनेश त्रिवेदी: जो भी सरकार हो, क्या वह लैंड दलाल बन गई है या वह सरकार, ऐसी सरकार है, जो सबकी हिफाज़त करती है। आखिर में मैं यह कहूंगा कि यदि हमको खाना उपलब्ध नहीं होगा, तो क्या हम ये multiplex खाएंगे, इन Malls को खाएंगे, किसको खाएंगे? भगवान न करे कि हमारे सामने यह परिस्थिति आए, लेकिन अगर इसी प्रकार से चलता रहा, तो यह परिस्थिति एक दिन जरूर आनी है।

उपसभापति जी, एग्रीकल्चर मंत्री यहां मौजूद नहीं हैं, मैं उनसे हाथ जोड़कर कहूंगा कि आप बहुत ही सक्षम हैं, आपने जीवन देखा है, लेकिन मेहरबानी करके आप क्रिकेट में कम दिलचस्पी लीजिए और आने मंत्रालय में ज्यादा दिलचस्पी लीजिए ...(व्यवधान)... बागड़ोदिया जी, यह बहुत सीरियस मामला है, मुझे लगता है कि आपको इस तरफ आने की ज्यादा जल्दी है, अगर इसी प्रकार होता रहा, We are sitting on a volcano. If we don't correct the situation, poor people are going to come on the streets and the revolution is going to take place.

Lastly, I request the hon. Finance Minister, who is not listening to me, to kindly take note of it and take corrective action. Thank you.

5.00 P.M.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): Do you want me to summarise what you have said?

SHRI R. SHUNMUGASUNDARAM (Tamil Nadu): Thank you very much Sir.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: There is no AIADMK Member. You can carry on with your speech.

SHRI R. SHUNMUGASUNDARAM:They will come, Sir.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA (Rajasthan): For giving an effective oratory, he needs AIADMK Members. Otherwise, it would not be effective.

SHRI R. SHUNMUGASUNDARAM: Sir, most of the people are worried in this country about the price rise. In the trend of increasing globalisation, when the prices of certain commodities increase in certain parts of the world, it has a cascading effect on the other parts of the world. One such thing is oil which is a very vital commodity. We have been seeing, in the recent past, there is a steep increase in the oil prices and that it has its cascading effect on the other commodities, particularly in our country. The reasons for oil price rise are stated to be several and one amongst them is some tension or war in some parts of the oil producing countries. However, the Government is taking some steps to contain and it is trying its best. But what is required, according to the suggestions of various hon. Members who spoke prior to me, is that the Public Distribution System must be strengthened. And, that is the agenda of the Common Minimum Programme of the UPA Government. The UPA Government has committed in the Common Minimum Programme that it will strengthen the Public Distribution System, particularly in the poorest and the backward block of the country, and would also involve women and cooperatives in its management. Is this Government doing that? That's the question posed by several hon. Members. I would suggest to the Government to take constructive steps in the direction of strengthening the Public Distribution System by consulting the State Governments. It is criticised that the procurement of commodities should not be through private traders. I can give one examples here. In Tamil Nadu, there are farmer markets, known as *Uzhavar Sandhai*, where the agricultural products are brought directly to the market and sold to the public directly. So, common places are

earmarked in various towns and villages. Transportation is provided to these farmers to bring their products. Thus, intermediates are totally eliminated and the farmers sell their products directly to the consumers, that is, public.

Sir, the other criticism made is about the hoarding. Regarding hoarding, I would only say that the Government should revert back to certain provisions of the Essential Commodities Act, which were discontinued about five years back. One particular provision was the constitution of the Special Courts. Now, there are no special courts for the offences pertaining to the Essential Commodities Act. Those Special Courts were presided over by the district-level Judges, and they were dealing with those cases expeditiously. There were quicker processes. Now all such cases go to the regular magistrates and they get stuck up there. There is no effective enforcement of the law against the hoarders. With these few suggestions, Sir, I would like to conclude my speech.

श्री बशिष्ठ नारायण सिंह (बिहार) : उपसभापति महोदय, आज की इस बहस की सीधा रिश्ता भारत सरकार की अर्थव्यवस्था के संचालन से है। महोदय, 60 और 70 के दशक में जब महंगाई बढ़ती थी, तो राजनीतिक कार्यकर्त्ता, समाजवादी दल की राजनीति करने वाले, उस धारा में विश्वास करने वाले लोग सड़क पर नारा लगाते थे–''इस सरकार की क्या पहचान, महंगा राशन, सस्ता जान''। कल 'सस्ता जान' पर बहस होगी

महोदय, उस समय दूसरे नारे भी लगते थे–''महंगाई पर जो रोक न लगाए, वह सरकार निकम्मी है, जो सरकार निकम्मी है, वह सरकार बदलनी है''। महोदय, इन नारों से उस समय भी सरकार बदल नहीं जाया करती थी, न इन नारों से आज भी बदल जाएगी। सरकार रहेगी और उस समय भी सरकार रहा करती थी। लेकिन उन नारों का कुछ मतलब रहता था। उन नारों से सरकार के कान खड़े हो जाते थे, सरकार एहतियात के तौर पर कुछ काम करती थी, कुछ कदम उठाती थी और उस के परिणाम निकलते थे। आज दूसरी परिस्थिति पैदा हो गयी है, लेकिन आज इस देश में एक अजीब विडंबना है। आज अर्थ-व्यवस्था का इतना सुखद् पिक्चर समाज के सामने आ रहा है जिस से लगता है कि हमारी आर्थिक स्थिति बहुत अच्छी हो रही है। विकास दर में वृद्धि के लिए वित्त मंत्री जी निश्चित रूप से बधाई के पात्र हो सकते हैं, लेकिन महोदय मैं कहना चाहता हूं कि आज इस देश में तीन ही तबके हैं। एक तबका वह है जिस के पास खर्च करने की समस्या है–टी० वी० किस ढंग का रखें, घर में फ्रिज किस ढंग का और किस नए मॉडल का मंगाया जाए। एक दूसरा तबका इस देश में वह भी है जो वेतनभोगी या मंझोले कद के व्यापारी हैं जो महीने में थोड़ा पैसा बचा लेते हैं। वे इस महंगाई के भार को सह सकते हैं, लेकिन एक तबका वह भी है जो गांवों से रोजगार की

तलाश में शहरों में आता है और झोंपड़ियों में रहता है। उन के बच्चों के सामने दूध पीने की समस्या है, जिन के सामने आंचल में सोने की समस्या है, जिन के लिए महंगाई का असर सीधे उन के दो जून के भोजन पर पड़ता है। उन के लिए यह बहुत बड़ी समस्या है और आज उन्हीं के लिए इस बहस का मतलब है। मैं यहां पक्ष और विपक्ष की चर्चा नहीं करना चाहता, लेकिन एक ऐसी स्थिति आ रही है कि जिस से लगता है कि इस तबके के ऊपर जो सरकार की और प्रतिपक्ष की राजनीति करने वाले हैं, उन तमाम लोगों की खास दृष्टि और उन पर खास emphasis नहीं पड़ रहा है। उपसभापति महोदय, मुझ को लगता है कि अब नीति का भी विकल्प चाहिए। वित्त मंत्री ने अर्थ-व्यवस्था संबंधी नीति बनायी है, लेकिन इन को एक नीति की यह भी घोषणा करनी चाहिए कि हमारी दाम बांधने की नीति क्या हो सकती है? उपसभापति महोदय, मैं दाम बांधने की बात इसलिए कह रहा हूं क्योंकि महंगाई पहले भी बढ़ी है, आज भी बढ़ रही है और महंगाई बाद में भी बढ़ेगी और विवेचना इसलिए कि आप डीजल और पेट्रोल की बात करिए, विश्व की अर्थ-व्यवस्था की बात करिए और कहिएगा कि अंतराष्ट्रीय इकॉनोमी से प्रभावित होने के चलते महंगाई बढ़ी है। मैंने इसलिए कहा कि भविष्य में भी महंगाई बढ़ेगी, लेकिन चाइना ने भी तो अपने ढंग से प्रयोग किया है। उस ने अपनी अर्थ-व्यवस्था को अपने ढंग से संचालित किया है। विश्व अर्थ-व्यवस्था से जुड़ा यह महंगाई का जो फैक्टर है, उस में एक दूसरा फैक्टर यह भी है कि स्थानीय स्तर पर महंगाई नियंत्रित करने का प्रबंधन किस ढंग से हुआ है? उसे रोकने के लिए आप ने क्या व्यवस्था की है? यह भी महंगाई की एक वजह है। महोदय, मैं इसे रोकने वाली व्यवस्था पर ज्यादा जोर दे रहा हूं। मैं सोलर इनर्जी और दूसरी बातों पर आज चर्चा नहीं करना चाहता। चर्चा तो अभी भी हो रही है कि इस देश में पेट्रोल और डीजल का विकल्प दूसरे तरीके से खोजना पड़ेगा, उसे अपने स्त्रोतों से निकालना पड़ेगा। इसलिए मैं दाम बांधने की बात कह रहा हूं और उस के लिए दो तरह की नीतियां हो सकती हैं। एक नीति तात्कालिक हो सकती है और एक दीर्घ सूत्रीय हो सकती है। दीर्घ सूत्रीय नीति से मतलब पवार साहब यानी कृषि मंत्रालय से है और इस के साथ को-रिलेटेड डिपार्टमेंट है। साथ ही तात्कालिक नीति भी हो सकती है और वह यह हो सकती है कि ग्लोबलाइजेशन के बाद भी हम अपने देश में भंडारण की व्यवस्था कैसे करेंगे? हम इस देश में वितरण की व्यवस्था कैसे करेंगे? हम इस देश में जमाखोरी पर नियंत्रण करने की व्यवस्था इस हालत में भी कैसे करने की कोशिश करेंगे? और दीर्घ सूत्रीय का मतलब यह था कि कम भूमि में इतनी तरह की फसलों की उपज देने के लिए हम कौनसी योजना बड़े पैमाने पर निकाल सकते हैं? ताकि छोटे कद गृहस्थ को और किसान को भी उतना उत्पादन हो जाए, जिससे कि उसके जीवन की जो आवश्यकताएं हैं, कम-से-कम खाने की, वह उससे पूरी कर सके। सरकारी प्रबंधन इसलिए महत्वपूर्ण है कि यदि हम भंडारण कर लें और व्यापारियों के खरीदने पर एक सीमा निर्धारित की जाए कि इससे अधिक सामान आप नहीं रख सकते, एक यही आपकी सीमा होगी और हम सरकारी गोदामों के लिए जितना सामान खरीदते हैं, सरकार के उन गोदामों में इतना सामान होना चाहिए कि यदि इस ढंग की क्राइसिस आए, तो

सरकार न केवल आम जनता को सप्लाई कर सके, बल्कि इसके बाद जो बचत हो, उसको बाहर एक्सपोर्ट करने का काम भी कर सके।

डिस्ट्रिब्यूशन के मामले में अवनि राय जी ने जो कहा, वह मुझे अच्छा लगा। अभी दिनेश त्रिवेदी जी भी बोल रहे थे, अवनि राय जी का ही सुझाव था कि केन्द्र सरकार को राज्य सरकारों को, राज्य सरकारें चाहे जिनकी हों, बुलाकर एक विमर्श का रास्ता अख्तियार करना चाहिए कि इस तरह की स्थिति में एक सामयिक नीति अपनाई जाए, जिससे महंगाई को बराबर नियंत्रण में रखा जाए। पहले से ही दाम बाँधने के लिए कुछ ठोस और कारगर कदम पर बहस होनी चाहिए, तभी इस देश में महंगाई आगे भी रोकी जा सकती है और इस महंगाई पर नियंत्रण भी किया जा सकता है। इतना ही कह कर मैं अपनी बात समाप्त करता हूँ। धन्यवाद।

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, this has been a useful and instructive debate. This is not the first time we are discussing this year price rise. We had a discussion in this House on the 22nd of May and 23rd of May. Much of what I will say now was covered even in that debate. I will try to recall the more important points that I made there and share with the House what our assessment of the situation is, and what steps we are taking in order to maintain price stability. I was surprised when Shri Venkaiah Naidu said that during the NDA Government there was never any discussion on price rise...(Interruptions)... He is still very young but, I think, memory tends to fade rather quickly. In this House price rise was discussed on the 17th of July, 1998, 7th and 8th of December, 1998, and 14th of April, 2000. In the Lok Sabha, there were discussions on 9th of July, 1998, then, on the 3rd to 8th of December, 1998, and on 27th of April, 2000. Price rise is a matter which concerns everyone. I am concerned. But one must understand why prices rise. Some of you were here when Shri Arjun Kumar Sengupta made his very short but very useful intervention. I am not getting into any technical details. I am not a trained economist, but let me tell you why prices rise in a developing country, and, then, I will deal with the current situation. In a developing country, some inflation is unavoidable. Inflation takes place because of a variety of factors, but, broadly, all of them can be clubbed under three factors. One is cost-push inflation. When input cost goes up, prices do rise. Today, Shri Ramachandraiah asked me: apart from crude oil, what has gone up? I say look at the commodity prices world over, steel has gone up, aluminium has gone up, zinc has gone up, and, virtually, every metal has gone up. International prices of wheat have hardened. International prices of pulses

have hardened because of non-availability. Broadly, not only fuel prices but commodity prices have hardened throughout the world. And, when our economy is more open, it is not possible to insulate commodity prices in India from commodity prices in the rest of the world.

The first reason why prices go up is rise in cost, which is called cost-push inflation. I think, most people will understand this. Now, what can one do about fuel prices? In 2003-04, the NDA Government was extraordinarily lucky that crude prices averaged only 28 dollars a barrel. Now, we have been extraordinarily unlucky that in 2004-05, the average crude prices per barrel went up from 28 dollars to 39 dollars. In 2005-06 it went up to 55 dollars, and, in 2006-07, in the first three-and-a-half-months, the average price at which we are buying crude is 67 dollars 88 cents. It is three times the price of a barrel of crude oil that prevailed in the last year of the NDA Government. All can do is rule our bad luck because this is comething on which we have no control at all. We don't fix prices of crude oil. I am giving this an an example of how cost-push inflation has an impct on prices.

The second reason for prices to rise is demand-driven, demand-pull inflation. If the economy grows at abour four per cent or so, the output increases by four per cent or so, there is only so much demand in the economy. This is the fourth year in which I expect the economy will grow at an average of eight per cent. If you count the last year of the NDA Government as the first year, on the back of very low growth, the GDP recorded an increase of 8.5 per cent in 2003-04. That can be explained partly as a statistical illusion because it is on the back of very low growth in the previous year. But upon 8.5 per cent, we had 7.5 per cent in 2004-05, we have 8.4 per cent in 2005-06, and, this year, according to all estimates that are available so far, the economy will grow between 7.5 and 8 per cent. When output is high, when growth is high, the demand is high. So much more is produced. So much more milk, so much more eggs, so much more clothing, so much more agricultural produce, so much more industrial produce is produced, and people are consuming. Now, the question was rightly asked, why are our cement prices high? The cement prices are high because the demand for cement has outpaced the supply of cement; although capacity has been added to the cement industry, the

additional capacity has not kept pace with the additional demand. The same thing applies in steel. Why do you think an L.N. Mittal, why do you think a Tata, why do you think a Kumarmangalam Birla, why do you think a Jindal is putting up a million tonne steel plant in India? If there will be no demand for steel, why would he put a plant? It is because they forecast that demand will rise very sharply, they are willing to come to India to put a million tonne steel plant; Posco is putting up a twelve million tonne steel plant or a ten million steeel plant because the demand will rise, and when demand rises unless the supply side keeps pace with the demand, unless the capacity is expanded at the same pace as the demand expands, the prices will rise. One of the reasons why prices are rising the world over, especially in the commodities market, is the output, the global output. The global output in 2005 was 4.8 per cent, which means, the global GDP is growing at 4.8 per cent. Global output this year is expected to grow by 4.9 per cent, one of the highest growth witnessed in the post-War era. The US is growing at over 4 per cent; Europe is growing; Japan has come out of its sluggishness; China is growing at a scorching pace of 11 per cent and India is growing by 8 per cent. The global demand is high. When global demand is high, global output is high and until capacity catches up to meet with demand, there is price rice, which is one of the reasons why prices are rising world over, the prices of all countries of the world. The point I am trying to make is, growth exacts a price; high growth exacts a price. One of the prices one has to pay for high growth is some inflation.

The third, and the reason which is agitating me and agitating all of you, is what we call, supply shocks, that is, we have not managed the supply-demand as efficiently as we should have. Now, somebody said, onion prices are four rupees at one place and ten rupees in another place. No finance Minister can deal with that! The point is these are supply constraints. One has to ensure that there are no artificial barriers to the movement of goods from one place to another. And one must be vigilant, the local Government must be vigilant, to see that these supply shocks don't take place. The price of potato varies from place to place; the price of tomato varies from place to place. These are essentially supply shocks. Now, we have had some supply shocks in the last five to six months. That is why the prices of primary articles have risen. Let me not mince words. I admit, there has been price rise and this is largely driven by two sectors; one is the fuel sector and the other is the primary article sector. On fuel, I can

say that we have no control. We have not passed on the full fuel price. If we had done that, it would have been more inflationary. We have not done that. We have passed through the burden of 10 per cent of the fuel price rise, crude oil price rise; the Government and Oil companies are absorbing the remaining 90 per cent. That is a larger policy question; I am not getting into that now.

The second reason is, primary articles. It is the primary articles, which have caused this price rise and of these, there are three articles which are really responsible—wheat, sugar and pulses. Let us look at each one of them briefly. Now, production of wheat in 2004-05 was 68.6 million tonnes. The estimates were scaled down from time to time—in 2005-'06, the production has been estimated at slightly over 68.6 million tonnes. Arrivals in the market in 2004-'05 was 15.91 million tonnes of which 93 per cent was procured; 14.77 million tonnes were procured. In 2005-'06, the arrivals were marginally lower at 13.64 million tonnes. But only 67 per cent were procured. Procurement is only 9.22 million tonnes. The target for procurement fixed for various States was 162 lakh tonnes, but what was procured was only 92 lakh tonnes. Punjab had a target of 85 lakh tonnes; they procured only 79 lakh tonnes; Haryana needed to procure 42 lakh tonnes; they procured only 22 lakh tonnes; Uttar Pradesh needed to procure 25 lakh tonnes and procured only half a lakh tonne. Madhya Pradesh needed 5 lakh tonnes and procured nothing; Bihar needed two lakh tonnes and procured nothing. The reasons we have looked into and we are conscious of that. Last year, the procurement fell far below target. The corrective measures are being put in place to ensure that that is not repeated next year. My view is that while we can quarrel about the correctness. or otherwise of the procurement price, the procurement price is fixed based upon the CACP recommendations. My view is that once the procurement price is fixed, the Central Government and the State Governments must work together to achieve the procurement target. There is no room for misplaced sympathy in not procuring. One has to procure. If we do not procure, we will face the kind of difficulties that we face this year. This is a lesson that, I believe, we have learnt and I hope that this shortfall in procurement will not happen in the next season. But that does not mean that allocations were reduced. There was a statement that you have reduced the PDS allocations. That is not correct. In 2003-04, rice and wheat together, the allocations was 71.59 million tonnes. In 2004-05,

rice and wheat together, the allocation was 72.05 million tonnes and in 2005-06, the allocation was 72 million tonnes. The allocation was not reduced. In fact, in 2003-04 and in 2004-05, the same quantity of rice and the same quantity of wheat were allocated, giver or take a few thousand tonnes. In 2005-06, because of the situation that we faced, rice allocation was increased by 6 million tonnes and the wheat allocation was reduced by 6 million tonnes. But the total allocation remained the same. Now look at the off-take. The off-take in 2004-05 and the off-take in 2005-06, despite the mix was exactly the same, was 41.47 million tonnes and 41.90 million tonnes. My view as to what has happened is, while the allocation remains the same, the PDS machinery at the State level is not using the entire allocation to ensure that it is pushed through the PDS system. In fact, the off-take is about 60 per cent of the allocation. Specially in APL, the off-take was very, very low. Therefore, the States which are responsible for the PDS must make use of the allocation. I entirely agree with Mrs. Karat. The entire allocation must be pushed through the PDS. But they are not pushing through the entire allocation of the PDS. There is a vast gap between allocation and the off-take which is one of the reasons why there is a psychology of scarcity in the market which, of course, traders take advantage of to push up prices in the open market.

Sir, the next point is sugar. Now, what is the position on sugar. In 2002-03, the production was 201.3 lakh tonnes. In 2003-04, it fell to 139 lakh tonnes. In 2004-05, it fell again to 130 lakh tonnes. so, sugar stocks sharply declined which is the reason why sugar prices went up during that period. In 2005-06, the production has been 191 lakh tonnes and the next year it is expected to be good. We have banned export of sugar and sugar prices are now stable. But in successive years we lost 60 and 70 lakh tonnes of production of sugar. The demand for sugar is 195 lakh tonnes. There is a clear supply-demand mis-match which was exacerbated in 2003-04 and 2004-05 which has been partially made up in 2005-06. But hopefully with the new sugar season beginning from the first October, we will be able to make up in sugar.

Now pulses is a great problem. We are short of pulses. Presently, production of pulses, as also for all major commodities, has stagnated since 1995-96. There has not been any major scientific breakthrough or technological breakthrough in either wheat or paddy or pulses. Now, take pulses. In 2003-04, production was 149 lakh tons; 2004-05 - 131 lakh tons;

2005-06 - 139 lakh tons. We have always been short of pulses. We have always imported pulses. That is why, 'pulses' is on OGL. Now, what has happened this year is that the world production of pulses has also declined. The only country where there are some pulses available for export is Myanmar. And, we have opened it up for OGL. But, if there are no pulses, the kind of pulses that we consume in this country, if our production goes down, and there is not enough surpluses in the rest of the world, especially Myanmar, the prices of pulses are bound to rise, and this is the problem about pulses. Now, let's look at production figures. I think we should look at production figures to see what has happened to the production of foodgrains. This is a larger question. This must be debated thoroughly. Let's take rice. I don't go back very far. Let me go back only to 1993-94. In 1993-94, *kharif* and *rabi*-80 million tons was the total rice production. It remained, more or less, at the same level for about 7 or 8 years. It went up to about 88-89 million tons in 1998-99, and since then, it has remained the same. Take wheat. Since 1998-99, wheat has been at the level of about 70-71 million tons. Take cereals altogether-since 1998-99, it has been at the level of 188-190 million tons. 2002-03 was a bad year when it went down to 163 million tons. I have pointed out that there has been no major scientific, technological breakthrough. After the first Green Revolution, there has been no major breakthrough in rice or wheat or pulses...*(Interruptions)*. I am talking about research. I am talking about breakthroughs in research and technology. Unless there is a breakthrough in research and technology, unless we are able to improve the productivity, improve the quality of seeds, we will not be able to solve this problem. we are stagnating for the last 12 years. This has nothing to do with this party or that party. I am giving you the facts. The production is virtually stagnating throughout the country despite adding to irrigation, despite good years of rain, despite bad years of rain. And, I have pointed out to the Prime Minister that his is the real problem in this country. Population is rising. Per capita income is rising. People's eating habits are changing. People, who ate coarse grain, are eating rice and wheat today. That is good. If growth is at about 8 per cent and population rises at about 2.5 per cent, per capita rises at about 5 per cent, people are consuming more and if this is the stagnation level of production of foodgrains, we will run into problems. we will become dependent on import. So, there has to be a breakthrough. Sir, I don't want to get into more figures and facts. The point is that we have had a difficult three months largely driven by fuel prices and driven by rise in prices of

wheat, sugar and pulses. But, we have taken a number of steps. We have taken a number of steps on the fiscal side. I don't want to give a long list. What is within the power of Ministry of Finance, we have taken steps on the fiscal side. The RBI has taken steps on the monetary side. Even today, the RBI has increased the reverse rapo rate by 25 basis points. It is a monetary tightening because of high demand. Home loans are growing at 44 per cent. I mean, here, we talk about cement prices being high, iron and steel prices being high, brick prices being high, but home loans are growing by 44 per cent...*(Interruptions)*. It is good. But, it will have an impact on steel prices and cement prices. Nobody is saying that it is bad. I am happy people are building homes. I am very happy people are investing. Non-food credit is growing by 32-33 per cent for the third year running.

SHRI MOINUL HASSAN (West Bengal): Some people are not getting rice and pulses also. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Getting what?

SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Some people are not getting rice and pulses. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I am talking about the fact that monetary tightening is taking place. The monetary tightening has to take place because you cannot sustain a 30 per cent non-food credit growth for the third year running. It is simply not possible. It will overheat the economy. In the United States, if GDP grows by over four per cent, they call it 'overheating', and, the Fed Chairman raises rates.

We are now at a growth rate of between 7.5 to 8 per cent. So, monetary tightening is taking place. Whatever monetary steps are to be taken, the Reserve Bank is taking. Whatever fiscal steps have to be taken, I have taken fiscal steps and I will take fiscal steps. The most important thing to address now is the supply side. We must address the supply side to ensure that the supply-demand mismatch is reduced to the bare minimum.

And, I entirely agree with Dr. Arjun Sen Gupta. This has nothing to do with neo-liberalism or a dirigiste economy. Mrs. Karat sent me a note. I have sent her a note back. She said, Sharad Joshi belongs to your class. He is supporting you. I said,"No, he is not on my side; nor are you on my side." I am the poor Finance Minister who falls between two stools! The point is that we don't believe in either neo-liberalism or a dirigiste economy.

What we believe in is a liberal economy based on market principles. *(Interruptions)* I am not hiding that, Mrs. Karat.

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Class speaks stronger than political affiliations.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: We believe in a liberal economy based on market principles where the State will take necessary steps from time to time to ensure that the poor and the disadvantaged are not affected. We are not going back to a dirigist economy, nor are we embracing what she calls neo-liberalism. There is nobody here who is a neo-liberal. But, at the same time, let me reject the argument that we go back to a dirigiste economy. The path that we have chosen in the last fifteen years has brought us great benefits. It has brought us...*(Interruptions)*.

This is based on an ideological divide. I am not hiding it. There is an ideological division between what you say is right and what I say is my view. I am not hiding it. But the point is you must spread your ideology among the people even as we do.

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: But don't spread hunger among the people.*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: There is no country in the world...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Learn from Tamil Nadu. Learn from Karunanidhi. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: There is no country in the world which has gone back to a dirigiste economy. I don't believe that it is in the interest of the country to go back to a dirigiste economy. *(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Please go to your own State and find out.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Please, I did not interrupt you, and, I think, you should allow me to complete my statement. No country in the world has gone back to a dirigiste economy and I would be loathe to take this country back to a dirigiste economy.

Now, Sir, questions have been raised about two issues on which I must share the concerns of the Members. The first is about the Essential Commodities Act. It is true that in February, 2002, the NDA Government repealed all Control Orders but, in fairness, I must say that that very Order allowed the State Government to pass their own control orders with the

prior permission of the Central Government. We have made it clear to all the Chief Ministers that if they wish to pass Control Orders, to regulate suspected hoarding, price manipulation or black-marketing, the Government of India will give them permission to pass such Control Orders. Now, one can legitimately raise the question as to why should they come to the Government of India for permission. Why don't you just give them the permission?

Now, I have conveyed this point of view to the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Affairs, by whose Ministry the Essential Commodities Act is administered; I shall convey these views again. But I would use this opportunity to appeal to all Chief Ministers that if any State wishes to pass a Control Order to deal with hoarding, black-marketing or price manipulation, surely, the Government of India will support such a move so that they can invoke the powers under the Essential Comodities Act against anyone who is acting against the interest of the public. Whether that Control Order should be amended to remove the clause about prior permission, I shall certainly convey the sentiments of this House to the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Affairs. The second thing is about future trading.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Sir, if you don't mind, why was this truth not told to the Chief Ministers?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: That is not correct. I told them myself. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: It is totally unfair and against the policy of our Government.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: The fact that the Control Order repealed all Control Orders is true, it is equally true that the Repealing Order said, "If you want to pass a Control Order, take our prior permission". So, I have clarified that now. I have clarified it to them also.

Sir, the second issue is about futures trading in commodities. Sir, this is a complex subject. I don't pretend that I am knowledgeable in this area. You heard Dr. Arjun Sengupta who is certainly more knowledgeable than I am. The theoretical justification, and please mark my word, the theoretical justification for futures trading in commodities is as follows: (1) It leads to price discovery because of large-scale transactions by buyers and sellers. (2) It provides for risk sharing (3) It gives appropriate price signals for the

producer, the farmer. A regulated futures market with limits on open position, adequate margins and price-trigger mechanism generally has been found to be successful in many countries to curb speculation. Now, frankly, I am not entirely convinced that this theoretical justification is right in India. There is a debate within the Government. We are waiting for the Standing Committee to give its report on the Bill which is pending before Parliament. My friend, Mr. Jairam Ramesh, said he had spoken to the Chairman of the Standing Committee who had promised to send the report to the Parliament, this House and the other House, I believe, in about a weak or so. I would respectfully urge all the political parties, let us pass that Bill in this Session in both the Houses, with or without amendment. As I said, personally speaking, I am not entirely convinced about the theoretical justification. I think, one must take a close look at it. There is an exercise going on in the Government to take a close look at futures trading in commodities. But, once the Bill comes, it will empower the regulator to take action. The regulator today has virtually no power in commodity trade. That is why the Bill is introduced, and I hope that the Standing Committee will report. When that Bill comes, I want this debate to be repeated in a shorter form and the Minister of Agriculture will be present to answer that debate, and hopefully, we can all reach some conclusion on whether and how we should have futures trading in this country. Should we have futures trading in commodities at all? If we should have, under what regulation should we have? Should some commodities be kept out? I have an open mind on the subject, and I would urge all the hon. Members to please participate in that debate. But, I must insist, Sir, as respectully as I can, that that Bill must be passed in this Session of Parliament by both the Houses so that the regulator has powers if he wants to take some action.

Sir, there has been a moderation in the wholesale price index now. You say that the wholesale price index does not reflect the reality of the ground. I agree. That is the WPI. But, to allege that we are manipulating is, I think, a very unfair charge. Nobody manipulates these indices. These are prepared by professionals, the same professionals who prepared it five years ago, who prepared it ten years ago, who prepared it when the Telugu Desam was in Government in 1996-98, and when the NDA was in the Government. The same professional organisation prepares these indices. I think it is unfair to allege that we are manipulating. I don't think he meant it. If he meant it for effect that we are manipulating, nobody is manipulating these things. The Governor today has made a statement, and I would appeal to you to read the Governor's statement.

SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Nobody has said that it has been manipulated. We said that it is not relevant. ...(*interruptions*)...

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: People said that it is manipulated also. Nobody has manipulated. I think Mr. Narayan said it was manipulated. His party was in Government. Nobody manipulates it today.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: There was a reference, Sir. I made a reference to a particular story that has appeared in the Economic Times and the Finance Minister has not contradicted it so far.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: If I begin to contradict everything that appears.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: It is very improtant. It is a very serious matter. You are concentrating on other things that we understand. That is why the situation is like this. The point is that when a serious charge is made, it is the duty of the Government to make it clear.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: What is the serious charge?

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: They said that the WPI was deflating inflation. As per the WPI, the total inflation in foodgrains is only 9.5 per cent, and as per the survey by experts, it is 26.5 per cent. How can there be such variation?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I will explain.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: I am not an expert.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I know and that is why I will explain it to you later. I am glad you said that you were not an expert. So, I will explain it to you later.

We are talking about constructing the WPI index. There is a CPI index. The WPI index takes certain items in its basket. The CPI index takes very different items. For example, food, Food articles in the WPI index have much smaller weight, whereas food articles in the CPI index have much larger weight. Therefore, the WPI is constructed on a different basket, and the CPI is constructed on a different basket. There will be a difference between the WPI and the CPI. What matters to the common man is the CPI and even there, there is a CPI for industrial workers; there is a CPI index for agricultural labour; and there is a CPI for urban areas. So, these numbers must be understood for what they are. They are indicators; they are indices. We don't take them as telling you what the price is. As I said,

prices can vary from place to place. Take, for example, prices of commodities. The commodity prices varyf from place to place. Vegetable prices vary from place to place. If you construct an index for a town, it will be different from the index you construct for Delhi. All I am trying to say is that nobody manipulates this.

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN (West Bengal): Sir, there are complaints...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You can seek clarifications afterwards.

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: There are complaints from different trade unions that it is not reflecting the right kind of things. Even the collection of prices is not from proper places. All the methodology is in question. A unanimous question was raised across the party..

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: All I am trying to tell you my friend is that the CPI is based on gathering price data from a certain number of stations, of certain items of consumption, and the index is constructed on that basis. You can argue that the price data are not gathered from enough places. You can argue that the price data are not gathered as efficiently or as accurately as possible. That I can understand. But it is the same method and the same manner in which the price data were gathered five eyars ago or ten years ago. I am only refuting the charge that we are manipulating any index. We are not manipulating any index. We take the index for what it is.

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: But there are defects, Sir.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Those defects can be corrected. If there are defects, they can be corrected. The WPI shows and the Governor's statement today says that mid-May onwards, there is a certain amount of stability in prices, which I said in the debate on 22nd and 23rd of May. The steps that we have taken will stablise the inflation rate. and mid-May onwards, you will find, as far as primary group is concerned, the index is declining; for fuel, power, and light group, the index is more or less stable because crude prices are, in fact, rising; for manufactured products, there is a marginal increase, but it is very, very low.

Now, this can be corrected, as we hope to correct it, when wheat arrives, when the pulses that are on OGL arrives, when the new sugar crop arrives. I am absolutely confident that prices will stabilise further. In the short run, I do not see any rise in prices. I do not see any relentless rise in prices.

But we are watching the supply side very carefully. These supply shocks will be addressed together with my colleague, the Minister for Agriculture, Food and Consumer Affairs. I and other Minister will take steps to ensure that the supply side is addressed until the new stock of sugar arrives beginning October and the new stock of wheat arrives beginning next year

The answer is, of course, what Mr Sengupta said, namely, imports. As consumption rises, and there is a supply-demand mismatch, import is the answer. But what amazes me is that even after this, some people say you should not import. Now, if the total availability, forget whether it is in public stock or private stock, for one reason or the other, is less than last year, you cannot increase the total availability except by imports. The total availability in the country can only be increased by imports or by banning exports. Therefore, I think, the right decision has been taken to import wheat, to import pulses and in future also, if there is a supply-demand mismatch within the country, both public and private stocks taken together, we will take steps to import in order to enhance supplies of essential commodities.

Sir, let me assure hon. Members that we are acutely conscious that we need to maintain price stability. It is wrong to say that prices have risen only recently. Let me just refresh Mr. Venkaiah Naidu's memory. Between December 1998 and July 1999, it was a declining phase in inflation from 7.1 per cent to 2 per cent. But then, between July 1999 to January 2001, inflation rose from 2 per cent to 8.7 per cent. Memories fail.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: I have the Economic Survey with me. (*Interruptions*) It was persented by you to this very House. At no time, inflation has crossed 7 per cent during NDA's regime and it was 10 per cent during Manmohanji's period.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: You are absolutely wrong. Please come to my chamber tomorrow and I will tell you month by month.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Why should I? You have presented the Economic Survey. If you say that the figures given in the Economic Survey are wrong, then, I can't help it.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: No, the figures given in the Economic Survey are right. If you come to me, I will share with you a cup of coffee and I will take you through it month by month.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: If you want to stabilise the present prices at the present level, that's a different matter.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: No, no. I am just pointing out to you. From July 1999 to 2001, inflation rose from 2 per cent to 8.7 per cent. From January, 2001 to February 2002, it declined again to 1.4 per cent.

From February 2002 to April 2003, it increased from 1.4 per cent to 6.7 per cent and from April 2003 to August 2004, it again increased from 6.7 per cent to 8.5 per cent. Graphs are available; numbers are available; month-wise inflation figures are available; averages are available; average for the month is vailable. It is troughs and peaks. I will share with you the graph after the end of this debate. At the end of the debate, I will share with you the graphs...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Sir, one need not go into the weeks or months. There is an annual average given by the Economic Survey which is presented to this House by the very Finance Minister. At no place, it has gone ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Please understand, Mr. Venkaiah Naidu, nobody is disputing it. The Economic Survey is the publication of the Government. Nobody is disputing the correctness of it. But even in surveys and figures, you must know how to read the figures. (*Interruptions*) I am inviting you to try to help you.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: I have no problem. I will come. I will not take coffee. I don't take coffee. But the only thing is, I will have the copy of your report and will also try to reconcile both.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I am very respectfully inviting you... (*Interruptions*)...

श्रीमती वृंदा कारत: सर, काफी पीने में आम जनता तो मर ही जाएगी।

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Therefore, it is not correct to say that. Firstly, there have been troughs and peaks. There was a peak as we came into Government. It was a rising inflation from the month of April 2003. There was a rising inflation. When we came to office, it peaked in August 2004, but we brought it down to 3.7 per cent in August 2005. From August 2005 to April 2006, it was stable at 3.7 to 3.9. Since April 2006, it has risen from 3.9 to 5.1. That's all I am trying to say. What we hope to do it, through fiscal and monetary efforts, we will stabilise the heading inflation. Supply side shocks, we will address it by addressing the question of wheat, sugar and pulses and I can assure the House, Sir, the Government is acutely aware of its responsibility and will discharge its responsibility in order to protect the common people.

Sir, now, I wish to make on last point. This question has been raised. I nave read out these figures earlier. I have sent it Mr. Sitaram Yechury who asked from me in writing, I have shared it with him. The point is, it is misconception that we have a tax bonanza because of the crude oil price rise. This very document which I have in my hands has been shared with a very senior Member of the CPI (M). I have sent it to him and he has acknowledged receipt of it.

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Sir, acknowledging receipt does not mean accepting your logic.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Well, you have to accept my figures before you accept my logic. You have to accept my figures first. In 2004-05, the total customs and excise revenues from crude oil, petrol and diesel was Rs. 56,358 crores. In 2005-06, we bubgeted for, after reducing customs duties and after adjusting excise duties, Rs. 64,738 crores. But, at the end of the year, we actually collected only Rs. 62,874 crores. So, contrary to the popular impression, the increase in crude oil prices did not give a bonanza to the Exchequer. In fact, we fell short of the budgeted figures by Rs. 1,864 crores, and I have got the reasons why we fell short. ...(*interruptions*)...I will tell you why we fell short. On the customs side, we collected an additional Rs. 3,986 crores, but on the excise side, there was a shortfall of Rs. 5,850 crores. Therefore, the overall shortfall as against the Budget was Rs. 1,864 crores. So contrary to the popular impression, that with the rise in crude oil prices we got an undeserved or unexpected bonanza to the Exchequer, we did not even meet the Budget target on the petroleum sector's tax revenues. Now, why did the excise fall? Excise fell because import of petroleum products was less and volume growth of diesel was only 1.5 per cent in 2005-06. Therefore, excise revenues actually took a negative and in the customs revenues, we got a little more. Overall, we got Rs. 1,864 crores less. So, no bonanza came out of curde oil prices.

As far as the adjustment of prices is concerned,

AN HON. MEMBER: What about the State Governments, Sir?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Just a minute. I am not talking about the State Governments; I am talking about the Central Government revenues.

Sir, as far as crude oil is concerned, we have reduced the customs duty on crude oil from 10 per cent to 5 per cent. We have reduced the customs duty on petroleum products from 20 per cent to 10 per cent. On the excise

side, we have strictly gone by Dr. Rangarajan Committee Report where we have shifted to the *ad valorem* duty. If any further fiscal measures have to be taken, I have an open mind; we will look at fiscal measures, but, at the same time, we also have to protect our revenues. The Budget was presented to this House. You passed the Budget. There is a revenue side; there is an expenditure side. The difference is the fiscal deficit. If I have to take a hit on revenues, there are only two ways. Either I have to increase taxes or I have to cut down expenditures. Now, there are upsides and downsides to both; we can debate that. If you want to discuss the fiscal policy, we can debate that. But to say that we are getting a bonanza from the petroleum sector, I am only trying to correct that impression; we did not get a bonanza last year, and I do not expect to get a bonanza this year also. But whether we get more than we budgeted, I will report it at the end of the year. But, last year, we did not get more than we budgeted. In fact, we got Rs. 1,864 crores less than what we had budgeted from the petroleum sector.

To wind up, Sir, let me conclude by saying that the Government is actually aware that it needs to stablise prices. We are taking fiscal steps, we are taking monetary steps; we will take more steps. We will continue to take steps on the supply side. On the regulatory measures, when the Bill comes to the House, I want this House to frankly and freely debate the merits of the Bill so that whatever regulation has to be done on the futures trading of the commodities, we will take. I want to appeal to the Chief Ministers, if they wish to pass control orders to deal with hoarding, black-marketing and price manipulation, the Government of India will stand by them fully so that they can take whatever steps are necessary. Thank you, Sir.

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Sir, there are some clarifications which are required. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI: Sir, on the supply side, ...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: One by one.

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Sir, I want to seek some clarifications, ...(*Interruptions*)..... ...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: One minute.

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Sir, may I seek some clarifications?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I will give you time, Mr. Narayanasamy.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Thank-you, Sir...(*Interruptions*)...

श्री उपसभापति: इसमें क्या है ...(व्यवधान) He is the first man to raise his hands. So, I have called his name ...(*Interruptions*)...

श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज (मध्य प्रदेश): इधर से शुरू करिए।

श्री एस॰एस॰ अहलुवालिया: उपसभापति जी, डिबेट इधर से शुरू हुई है ...(व्यवधान)

श्री उपसभापति: इसमें क्या है ...(व्यवधान)

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: I sought his permission first ...(*Interruptions*)...

श्री एस॰एस॰ अहलुवालिया: डिबेट इधर से शुरू हुई है, right of clarification पहले इनका बनता है।

श्री उपसभापति: इसमें क्या है ...(व्यवधान)... ठीक है, इसमें क्या है ...(व्यवधान)... ठीक है, इसमें क्या है ...(व्यवधान)...

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: He has spoken. He has Spoken for 45 minutes. I will take only two minutes. I have to seek clarification only on one point (*Interruptions*)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Narayanasamy, please sit down. They have started the debate. Please cooperate. I will call you. Mr. Venkaiah Naidu.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: There is nothing sacrosanct. I would have yielded to Mr. Narayanasamy. It is not a big matter. But he has not spoken on the issue. That is number one. Now he wants to seek some clarification. (*Interruptions*)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: In fact, they withdrew two speakers. (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Can't Congress Members seek clarifications, if they have not spoken? (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Don't put that condition. Kindly don't put that condition.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Even if you are not present in the House, you can seek clarifications.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Nobody can do that. There is no rule like that.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: I agree with you. Why are you quarrelling unnecessarily at this late hour?

Sir, the point is that I am, at least, happy on one thing that the Finance Minister was honest to admit the so-called Control Order of which the Congress Chief Minister made a big issue. Now, the cat is out of the bag and the truth has come out. The second issue is that they have misled the nation to some extent.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Nobody has miled anyone.

श्री उपसभापति: आप क्लैरिफिकेशन पूछिए ...(व्यवधान)...

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: They have misled the nation.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Nobody has misled anyone.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: They have misled; the Congress Working Committee has misled; the Chief Minister has misled and you have been silent. Mr. Finance Minister, ...(*Interruptions*)...

श्री उपसभापति: वेंकैया नायडु जी, आप क्लैरिफिकेशन पूछिए ...(व्यवधान)...

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Now I want to compliment you for the same. (*Interruptions*)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We are not raising another debate. Please seek clarifications. (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: We are not ready to joint issue with them on this. Now the debate is over. (*Interruptions*)..

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please seek clarifications. There is no debate.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: I am just seeking clarifications. He has said that you don't know the writer's way or whatever it is and you must know how to read also. So, I couldn't read it the way our Finance Minister has said it. He has practically justified the price rise. He has not announced even a single relief to the suffering masses. This is my concern. He has asked me to go to his chamber. I can go to his chamber; I like him also. He is very intelligent. I admire him also for his intelligence.

श्री उपसभापति: आप क्लैरिफिकेशन पूछिए ...(व्यवधान)...

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: What is the relief to the people who are suffering? Do you think that the prices have really risen or that it is only a creation of the media and the Opposition? Sir, just with a jugglery of figures, he was trying to justify each and every thing. The entire country is watching. People are suffering. (*Interruptions*)....

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You please seek clarifications. Whatever he has to say he said. What can I do? (*Interruptions*)....

SHR M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Whatever he has to say, he will say. I said in the morning also that he was not going to change his attitude in spite of our friends on this side...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: What is the clarification?

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: The clarifications which I want are: What are the measures, except imports which you have mentioned, that you are taking to see that the prices which have risen are brought down? Do you have any scheme? Do you have any programme? Please take the House into confidence and tell us.

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Sir, I am seeking some clarifications. I would like to express our deep disappointment with the way the Finance Minister has addressed this issue. It seems to me that the distance between Tamil Nadu and Delhi is so far that the Finance Minister has forgotten that implementing the Essential Commodities Act and ensuring foodgrains at accessible prices to the people was the key which allowed the formation of the DMK Government in Tamil Nadu. Mr. Chidambaram has himself campaigned on the platform and language used in Tamil Nadu and Delhi is totally different.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please seek clarifications.

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: No, I have to say this. The clarification is this. First, let him talk about the language that he used in Tamil Nadu and the language he used in Parliament here. The difference reflects the policy differences. He says that it is not a neo-liberal policy. What is it? Does he want to give a new nomenclature to it? The fact is that his admission today is that the Government has utterly retreated from the basic minimum responsibility of providing food security to the people of this country. I have three questions. He said, "The State Governments can do it". They have got some understanding between themselves. He said, "Okay, you are not that bad". They said, "Okay, you are not that bad". That is between them. I don't know that. What we want to know is this. Is the Finance Minister going to rescind two orders, one about the change in the Essential Commodities Act which brought down the number of essential commodities from 79 to 15 by the NDA Government? Secondly, is the Government going to rescind the Government Order which says that there are no restrictions on the amount of stocks which can be hoarded by big traders? Let him answer that. Secondly, he has talked about regulations of future trading. We have made a very specific demand which is being supported by Shri Sharad Yadav, who

also was the Agriculture Minister. We have said that you remove essential commodities from future trading. That is the question here. You have talked about regulations of future trading. That is fine. But the question here is: Are you or are you not going to accept the demand to remove essential commodities from future trading? My third question is about the Public Distribution System. He has given some* figures. I am sorry to use such words. But when we go...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please don't use such word. This word should be removed.

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Sir, I withdraw that word. But the fact is this. There is a saying 'Lies lie in statistics'. I do not know what statistics are being used here. It is a fact that wheat allocations to Public Distribution System have been cut from around 23 lakh tonnes to 8 lakh tonnes. This is a fact. Has it been done in consultation with any State Government? Have they even bothered to find out why the APL off-take is so low? They are not bothered because their one commitment has destroyed the PDS. Therefore, I have to say it very clearly that my party is not at all satisfied with this. We strongly protest against petrol price hike and diesel price hike. The figures that the Finance Minister has given quoting that he has received a signed letter from my party Headquarters....

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Brindaji, I cannot start a fresh debate.

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: I am sorry, Sir. I do not have a sense of humour when such issues are discussed which concern the people. I am sorry to say this. I have to ...(*Interruptions*).

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I cannot allow separate debate on this.

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Sir, he has raised this issue. He said ...(*Interruptions*).

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The system is, Members participate in the debate and the Minister replies to the debate. After that we allow Members to seek certain clarifications, but there cannot be a fresh debate.

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: All right, Sir. I am seeking clarifications.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You said that you have to seek three clarifications. I have noted down your three clarifications.

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: My last clarification is this. The Government has given a note quoting certain figures. Is it or is it not a fact that the revenue earned by the Government, as far as this entire issue of petrol and diesel is concerned, has gone up from Rs. 96,000 crores in 2002-03 to Rs. 1,26,000 crores in 2005-06? Is it not a fact that these were the figures which were supplied in the Status Paper given by the Government? You give one set of figures when it pleases you and you give another set of figures when you want to justify the price hike....

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You have made your point.

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: We cannot accept it.

SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI: Sir, I have to seek three clarifications. Like a very good Professor of Economics, he said he is not a trained economist, but he gave a very good lecture here on theory. But when we come to practice; what is the reality on the ground, 'The taste of the pudding is in the eating'. Those people have not enough to eat. The question is this. He mentioned about the demand and supply side. He talked in length about the demand.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You seek your clarification.

SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI: What are you doing specifically on the supply side? Agriculture land, as I mentioned, is getting out of you hands. Is it true that you are also permitting mutual fund on real estate?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please seek clarifications.

SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI: Supply side is a separate question and mutual fund is a separate question. Are you giving permission for mutual funds in real estate? If you do that, more and more agricultural lands would be taken away by the land sharks.

SHRI SHARAD ANANTRAO JOSHI: As I mentioned in the last debate, I thought the current economic philosopher of the Government was Amartya Sen. Since Mrs. Karat has accused the Finance Minister of dual federalism, and the Finance Minister confirmed that he believed in market mechanism ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please, I will not allow everybody.

SHRI SHARAD ANANTRAO JOSHI: If the Finance Minister believes in the Essential Commodities Act, if he does not believe in future's market

and if he believes in State import of wheat, what kind of a market mechanism does he believe in?

श्री उपसभापति: श्री नारायणसामी। अब तो मैं नारायणसामी जी को समय दे सकता हूँ न! ... (व्यवधान)...

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: I understand from the debate that the hon. senior Members from the other side have been putting blame on the Central Government. Sir, it is the collective responsibility of the Central Government as well as the State Governments to keep the prices under control, irrespective of the fact whether the States are ruled by the ruling party or by the opposition party...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: He is supplementing the efforts of the hon. Minister.

श्री उपसभापति: आप क्लैरिफिकेशन पूछिए। ...(व्यवधान)...

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: I will have to give a prelude before seeking my clarification. In the matter of procurement, the States have to cooperate with the Central Government. I am not blaming the State Governments when they seek allocation for distribution of essential commodities through the Public Distribution System. But they are also responsible for procurement. In important States like Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, *etc.* procurement has been a problem...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: He is not giving the figures. He is just saying that the States have not procured what was required...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, everybody cannot get up and speak. Mr. Narayanasamy, please seek clarifications. We have to end the debate...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Sir, I would just seek two clarifications...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The entire House cannot seek clarifications...(*Interruptions*) Your party has already been given time. Then, everybody would like to speak.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: I want to know from the hon. Minister that in case of sugar production...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: We are having a discussion on price rise on the part of the Central Government. But he is point figures at the State Governments just for nothing.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: You have not understood what I said.

Sir, as far as sugar production is concerned, the hon. Minister stated that it is 170 lakh tons. Now, the farmers are crying for a better price for sugarcane. In the absence of this, sugarcane cultivation in the lands has come down...(*Interruptions*) Madam, I did not interrupt you when you spoke.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Narayanasamy, please seek clarifications. I am not allowing you for a debate. I am allowing you only to seek clarifications.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: I will come straightaway to my point of clarification. There has been a demand from the farmers to increase the remunerative price of sugarcane so that the sugarcane cultivation can improve, and there will be more production. I want to know from the Government whether they are considering this demand of increasing the remunerative prices.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, I thought I had listed the measures that we had taken on the fiscal and monetary side, and the supply side. But since Shri Venkaiah Naidu wants me to repeat it, let me repeat it.

Government has already announced that thirty-five lakh tonnes of wheat will be imported by State agencies; wheat is also now on OGL. Government has announced the release of forty-two lakh tonnes of free-sale sugar for the quarter April-June, 2006, which is eight lakh tonnes higher than the releases during the corresponding period of last year. Customs duty on import of pulses was reduced to zero on June 8 and ban was imposed on export of pulses. Import of sugar was permitted at zero duty ...(*Interruptions*)... You want our clarifications. When I read it, you do not want to listen! Import of sugar was permitted at zero duty. Export was banned till the end of the current financial year. Decision was taken to permit private traders to import wheat at a reduced duty of five per cent.

To contain volatility in the futures price of wheat, sugar and pulses, pending the Bill, Forward Markets Commission has taken the following steps. It has reduced the circuit filter limit. In the case of wheat and sugar, the daily price fluctuation limits were reduced. Special margins were imposed and compulsory delivery put in place for *urad*. More steps will be taken once the Bill is in place.

These are the steps taken on the supply side. On fiscal side, as I have said, we have reduced the import duty on wheat and on sugar. Monetary steps have been taken by the Reserve Bank of India. Further steps, as I have always said, will be taken from time to time depending upon the need, especially on the supply side.

श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज: माननीय उपसभापति जी, यह आम आदमी की परेशानियों से जुड़ी हुई बहस थी और इतनी विस्तृत चर्चा के बाद आम आदमी यह सोच रहा था कि वित्त मंत्री जी कम से कम ऐसी योजनाओं की घोषणा जरूर करेंगे, जिससे उनको राहत मिले। जो अभी इन्होंने ये योजनाएं पढ़ कर सुनाई हैं, ये योजनाएं उपभोक्ताओं को तो राहत नहीं देंगी, देश के किसानों को जरूर मार देंगी। देश में पहले ही किसान आत्म-हत्याएं कर रहे हैं और आप इम्पोर्ट-इम्पोर्ट, इम्पोर्ट-इम्पोर्ट कर रहे हैं, दालें इम्पोर्ट, गेहूं इम्पोर्ट, चीनी इम्पोर्ट, इससे तो देश का किसान और मरेगा, उपभोक्ताओं को भी कोई राहत नहीं मिलेगी। वित्त मंत्री जी के जवाब से हमें कोई संतुष्टि नहीं है, इसलिए इनके जवाब के विरोध में हम लोग सदन से बहिर्गमन करते हैं।

[At this stage, some hon. Members left the Chamber.]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, the only significant contribution that Mrs. Swaraj has been able to make is, announce the walk-out.

Now, as far as Shrimati Karat's questions are concerned, she will appreciate that I cannot, because I am not the Minister in-charge, give any categorical assurance on the first and second questions that you have raised. But I will explain the thinking in the Government...

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Sir, what is the point of any discussion on price rise if he cannot ensure some concrete measures? What is the point of a discussion, Sir?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I cannot give a ruling on that. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Sir, we are totally opposed to this approach. They announce the measures when it is convenient to them. On FDI in retail, they will announce the measures without discussion. On price rise, he is not prepared to announce any measures. I am sorry, Sir. We are totally opposed.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: She is not listening to what I am saying, Sir. ...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He has not yet completed.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I sad I cannot give a categorical answer, Sir, whether the Control Order will be rescinded or futures trading in commodities will be banned. This falls within the authority of the Minister of Agriculture and Food. I will explain the position. I will convey the House's views to the Minister and, I am sure, he will come and make whatever announcements have to be made. That is all I am trying to say. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE (West Bengal): No, Sir. We wanted the Govt. to curb hoarding and a specific assurance from the Minister. The Agriculture Minister is not here. That is not the reply.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I can't give this assurance. ...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: What do you expect the Chair to do? You have participated in the debate The Minister has replied. Beyond that, what do you expect? What do you expect the Chair to do? ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: On the third question, Sir, I have already given the figures. I do ot know what figures Shrimati Karat is quoting. I am sure she has got it from somebody.

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Sir, what's this?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I have already given the figures. Petroleum figures are...

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Sir, we totally protest against this answer and walk out of the House.

[At this stage, some hon. Members left the Chamber.]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, I have given the figures of the Customs and Excise revenues of the petroleum sector, and those figures are the correct figures. Those figures are the correct figures. I cannot comment on what figures she has got. I have given the figures for 2004-05; I have given the figures for 2005-06. I stand by the figures. I am in-charge of the revenues. I know what Customs and Excise revenues are collected from the petroleum sector, and the figures that I have given are the correct figures.

Sir, thirdly, a question was asked about supply side. Now, I have said that supply side means augmenting the availability of essential commodities

within the country, both public stocks and private stocks. if there is an overall supply-demand gap in the country, that can only be met by imports, and there is nothing wrong in imports. I take support from what Dr. Arjun Sengupta has said. Import is the correct way to augment availability of essential commodities which are in short supply.

Fourthly, Sir, there is nothing wrong in State import of wheat. I mean, again, as I said, on the one hand, we have got a powerful voice arguing for a dirigiste economy. On the other hand, we have a powerful voice arguing for a totally capitalistic economy. The State agencies are importing wheat. Wheat is on the OGL. The private traders can also import wheat. Both can import wheat into the country, and there is nothing wrong with State agencies importing wheat.

And, finally, Sir, on sugarcane, I would like to say that the price of sugarcane is decided every year by the Cabinet based on the CACP recommendations. The CACP recommendations are due on the price of sugarcane for the ensuing year. And, once the CACP recommendations come, the Cabinet will take an appropriate decision on the price of sugarcane.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, there is a statement by the Minister. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Sir, we have spent nearly three hours on this.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, six hours.

SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: What is the outcome of this debate?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It is for you to assess ...(*Interruptions*)... It is not for me to say. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: No, I am not staging a walk-out. Don't assume that. ...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no. I am not. ...(*Interruptions*)... That debate is over. I have called the hon. Minister to make the statement.

SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: What I am trying to ascertain is ...(*Interruptions*)... To elicit this information, we should have posed some questions, instead of disturbing the hon. Minister for three hours. But, ultimately, what is his concern? What are the constructive measures that

the Government is taking to reduce the burden of the common man? Sir, no concrete measures have been announced.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Ramachandraiah, I have called the Minister.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Sir, if you are not allowing clarifications. ...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, I am ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Sir, I am asking a different thing. If you are not allowing clarifications, then, let it be laid on the Table of the House.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no; the hon. Minister wants to make the statement. ...(*Interruptions*)...

श्री एस॰ एस॰ अहलुवालिया: इसको ले कर दीजिए।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: If that is the sense of the House, लेकर दीजिए, दोनों स्टेटमेंट्स को ले कर दीजिए।

श्री एस॰ एस॰ अहलुवालिया: दूसरी स्टेटमेंट किस बारे में है?

श्री उपसभापति: यह छत्तीसगढ़ के बारे में है। दोनों को ले कर दीजिए। Mr. Minister, please lay both the statements on the Table.

STATEMENTS BY MINISTER

Bomb blasts in local trains of Mumbai on July 11, 2006

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): Sir, I lay a copy of the Statement (in English and Hindi) on the Table.

Naxal attack at Errabore Relief Camp on July 16/17, 2006 in Dantewada District in Chhattisgarh

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Sir, I lay a copy of the Statement (in English and Hindi) on the Table.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The House is adjourned to meet tomorrow at 11 a.m.

The House then adjourned at twenty-five minutes past six of the clock till eleven of the clock on Wednesday, the 26th July, 2006.

MGIPMRND—3189RS—09.02.2007.